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Fitial proud to see Masons flourishing in NMI. PAGE 3

Autonomy of advanced nurse practitioners pushed. PAGE 6

Delay start of federalization—Kilili

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Congressman Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan met with a Department of Homeland Security official recently in an effort to delay the start of the federalization law.

Sablan

Sablan (I-MP) met with Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Richard Barth at the congressman's Cannon office building on Capitol Hill to exchange views and information about the impending transition to federal immigration beginning June 1. As part of the Public Law 110-229 signed into law last May by President

See DELAY on Page 4

CUC emergency extended anew

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

For the seventh straight month, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed an order placing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. under a state of disaster emergency, detailing new issues that justify the need for the declaration.

Fitial

The latest declaration was signed Jan. 30 and will last for 31 days.

"The declaration is still necessary to protect the health and safety of our

See CUC on Page 4

DUE TO CLOSURE OF GARMENT FACTORIES

DOL sees downward trend in labor cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department Of Labor has observed a downward trend in the number of labor cases, filed primarily due to the closure of the garment factories.

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, in Labor's 2008 annual report to the Legislature, said

See DOL on Page 4

NMC has 'high hopes' on reaffirming accreditation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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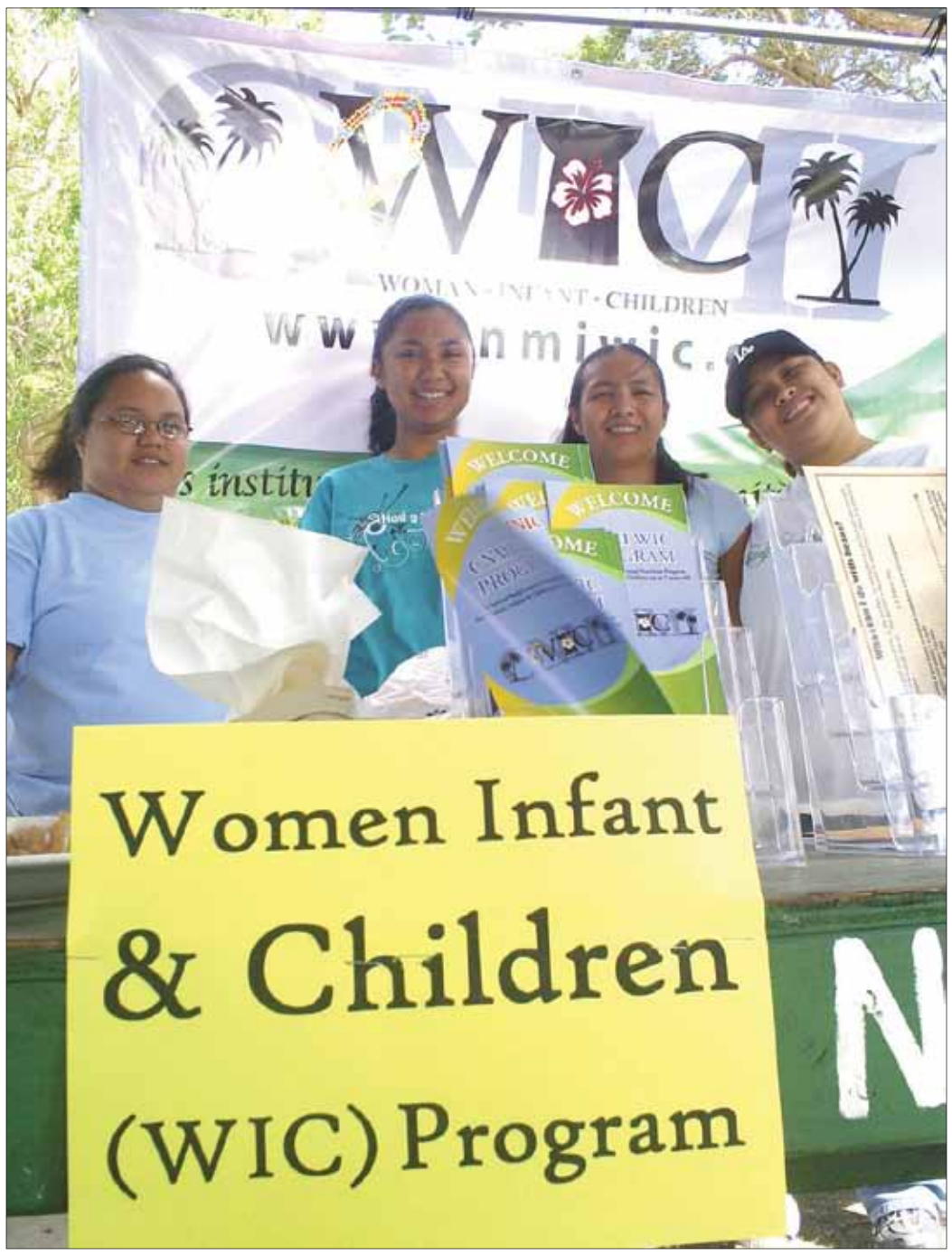
REPORTER

Fernandez

The college community is full of optimism that its accreditation will be reaffirmed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges after the positive in-

See NMC on Page 4



HEALTH FAIR HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Nutrition services coordinator Erin Camacho, second from left, joins other staffers of the Women, Infants and Children Program during Saturday's health fair attended by hundreds of children and adults.

POLL RESULTS

Which alternative energy do you think would work best in the CNMI: geothermal, OTEC, nuclear, wind, solar, or biomass?

Geothermal	10
OTEC	4
Nuclear	10
Wind	25
Solar	43
Biomass	1

Sunday, February 01, 2009

125 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Massive Cleanup
Gov. Steve Beshear deployed every last one of his Army National Guardsmen on Saturday, with his state still reeling after a deadly ice storm encrusted it this week.

Nation...Page 14

Super Show
Way before Prince, Paul McCartney or the Rolling Stones ever stepped onto a Super Bowl stage, there was Shirlee Bertolini. In her donkey costume.

Life & Style...Page 18

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, left, and Board of Education member Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero officially declare their intention to run as governor and lieutenant governor in the November 2009 gubernatorial elections, in front of over a hundred supporters in Gualo Rai on Saturday night.

BABAUTA, DELEON GUERRERO TANDEM

'The balance of energy of youth with wisdom of experience'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Former governor Juan N. Babauta and board of education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero had announced on Saturday their intention to seek the highest positions in government claiming their tandem would bring the balance of good governance by combing the energy of youth with wisdom of experience—the strength to any effective leadership wanting to create changes for the island.

Before over a hundred supporters, the duo expressed their appreciation to their families for embracing their decisions.

Babauta, who served in various capacities including the islands' chief executive, senator, and representative to Washington asked supporters to renew their thrust and pledged to serve only for the public's interest.

"I've been a public servant all my life," he said, adding that his leadership experiences cannot be trade to anything for these helped him gain great opportunities and learning.

In acknowledging his committed "shortcomings," he vowed to do better this time.

Babauta served a four-year term as governor and three four-year terms as Washington representative. He was defeated by incumbent governor Benigno R. Fitial in a four-way race in 2005.

"Yes, I have shortcomings… and yes, I could have done better in a lot of things throughout my years as a public servant. But I can say, unequivocally that I never served any special interest other than the public's interest. If given the chance, I want to redeem myself by making and doing much better… that I never done before," he told the crowd.

He said he's banking on his "experiences."

Citing the present challenges in the CNMI, "I don't want to stand by the way side to let our hopes and dreams slip back…"

Today, he said, the Commonwealth is caught between hope and fear.

"Fear that things are going to get worst before they actually begin to get better…and hope that things are going to get better rather than worst. But me and my running mate are on the side of hope because he is a man who inspires hope and the one who has brought the future tonight," Babauta said, claiming Deleon Guerrero's youthful energy would balance the experiences he had gained in the past.

'A calling'

Deleon Guerrero, the son of the late first mayor of Northern Mariana Islands and the great-grandson of the man who wrote the CNMI's anthem, described his decision to enter politics as his "calling."

"I always stayed away from politics though I came from two political families. But when I thought about this and all the options laid down before me, I felt it is a calling for me," he said, citing the legacy and heritage of leadership in his family.

Deleon Guerrero admitted considering to obtain his doctorate degree, go into a film school, and thinking about job offers in San Francisco where he was offered to become principal of at least three schools.

See BALANCE on Page 4

Fitial proud to see Masons flourishing in NMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he is proud to have witnessed the flourishing in the CNMI of the Masons' organization, affirming "the sound more values" the members upheld centuries ago.

Fitial said the group upholds the best virtues and highest ideals of fraternal friendship, brotherhood, charity, civic responsibility, community, and moral dignity.

"As governor, I respect and encourage these fine values and traditions in the CNMI, and I welcome your organization's active involvement in the life of our islands," said the governor in his remarks during the installation of elected and appointed officers for this year's Saipan Masons held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom on Saturday.

Fitial said he believes that the CNMI, the mainland U.S., and many countries around the world are better off with solid social organizations such as the Free Masons.

The chief executive welcomed the Masons' visitors from Guam and the Philippines.

Fitial said he is especially pleased to welcome the keynote speaker from Guam, Alfredo D. Leon Guerrero, whom he considered a friend.

"Your organization has been in existence for a very long time, way before our Commonwealth government was ever formed," he said.

The governor said he also understands that Free Masons existed even before the U.S.A. itself was formed.

Leon Guerrero

"Your organization is among the last of its kind in the 21st century, and yet it is still going strong, even in small communities such as the CNMI,"Fitial said.

Leon Guerrero, the Guam International Airport Authority property manager, congratulated the newly elected and appointed officers of Emon Lodge No. 179.

"Freemasonry's universality was once again affirmed on this noteworthy event, cherished by brothers of the fraternity. With this, we remain confident the Masonic Light essentially beam not only to contemporary vast lands, but to the traditional Pacific islands as well," Leon Guerrero said.

In his speech, Leon Guerrero, who at present holds the title of Very Worshipful Noble in the Masonry, discussed the many contributions to the world of the Guam Shriners Association.

Some of the Masons' charitable contributions go to the Shriners centers in Hawaii and California that treat crippled and burned children worldwide.

Leon Guerrero is president of the Guam Shriners Association. He is the son of former Guam Gov. Manuel Leon Guerrero. He is also the past District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

Businessman Isagani Benoza said it is an honor being installed as this year's Worshipful Master for the Emon Lodge No. 179 of Masonic District No. 54 under the Jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

"It is therefore my will and pleasure, that during this year, a massive outreach program should be launched, blazoning to each and every passer-by of our existence, without sacrificing or even diverting to our ancient principles," said Benoza, who served as a senior warden last year.

Also installed at the ceremony were Peter Eche as senior warden and Wolfgang Calvert as junior warden.

The other officers intalled were Wilfredo G. Ching as treasurer; Eli C. Buenaventura, secretary; Romulo A. Cayetano, auditor; Peter R. Crisostomo, chaplain; Daniel Banez, marshal; Robert Murdock, senior deacon; Jeffery Warfield Sr., junior deacon; Victor Brana, orator; Casiano Bostre, lecturer; Armando Neglerio, almoner; Sonny Pestanas, senior steward; Celso Gianchand, junior steward; Danilo San Pedro, organist; and Jess de los Santos, tyler.

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12 new CPA cops to augment shifting at ports

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelve new Commonwealths Ports Authority police officers will augment the understaffed operations of CPA Saipan and Tinian.

Nine from Saipan and three from Tinian graduated from the 10th Cycle Ports Police during Friday's ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose center in Susupe.

Kenneth Teregeyo Taitingfong, 19, of Saipan, emerged as the class valedictorian.

Taitingfong said the training was hard, rough, and long.

"I just strived hard. Sky is not the limit. I just kept working," said Taitingfong when asked about sacrifice that ended him obtaining the top award.

The valedictorian is son of Dan Taitingfong and the late Elaine Teregeyo.

Carl France Cepeda, of Tinian, came out as the class salutatorian, while Joseph Cabuang Cruz Jr., also of Tinian, got the most physical fitness award.

Adrian T. Mendiola, of Saipan, received the top gun award.

The other graduates are Alvin Iguel Blas, Jason Dean Cabrera Cruz Jr., Jenner Rogolofoi Lisua, Christopher Torres Macabenta, Juliano Senior Matsutaro, Ramsey Hadley Rosario, Marvin Laniyo Tebit, and Joseph Piloto Untalan.

Associate Justice Alexandro Castro administered the oath of office for the 12 new CPA police officers.

Assistant Chief of Ports Police Jordon I. Kosam in an interview said the new CPA police officers would start to report work Saturday, Jan. 31.

Kosam said the 19-week training began last Sept. 22 and ended last Thursday.

"It's basically police academy courses that police officers need to undergo before they go out and enforce the law," Kosam said.

He said the new graduates will help augment the staffing at CPA on Saipan and Tinian.

At present, he said, CPA has a total of 50 CPA ports officers in the CNMI.

"At least they will eventually help the shift as they go out and supplement the scheduling of shift at the airports and seaports on Saipan and Tinian," Kosam added.

NMC

From Page 1

dications shown by its commissioners during a meeting with president Dr. Carmen Fernandez in San Francisco.

During last week's special board meeting, members were informed that the accrediting body had told the NMC president to start preparing for the midterm report of the college which is due in October.

NMC was placed in show-cause status and is waiting for the body's decision whether the institution will be recommended for closure or re-affirm its accreditation.

Based on the commission's new policy, a member institution has only one year to comply with the requirements or face losing its accreditation.

Failing to get a positive result, the closure is expected to take place immediately or at least two months for the transition period.

But since the president was told to start preparing for the midterm report of the college, NMC is pinning its "high hope" that the institution will still operate beyond the expected timeframe for the closure—if WASC acted negatively on its fate.

Fernandez was in San Francisco last Jan. 6-7 for a final presentation to the commission.

Saipan Tribune learned that the president had faced 20 to 30 commissioner-panelists about the self-study, final, and supplemental reports it submitted last year.

However, seemed satisfy with all the works and progress noted in the reports and the final visit by members last November, "only a few questions" were thrown by the commissioners to the NMC president.

This "positive indication" was shared with NMC board of regents last week.

As of yesterday, NMC has yet to receive any notification from the accrediting commission.

BALANCE

From Page 2

For him, leadership is a great calling.

"Not everyone can do it, not everyone is called…and to those few who are called should respond to that and I feel that this is my calling," he said, adding that he prayed a lot for his decision.

Deleon Guerrero is the principal of Mount Carmel School and had served as senior policy adviser during Babauta's regime from 2001-2005.

He revealed that his decision was also a result of consultations with the people whom he trusted and respected.

Deleon Guerrero described the present situation of CNMI at the "crossroads."

"We need to change things. But you know what? We need to learn to balance the need for change—the energy of youth needs to be balanced with the wisdom of experience. Like the *man 'amko*, we cannot forget the past because they have made mistakes, but from them where we learned. The change cannot happen without the wisdom of experience and I think that's the strength of this ticket," he said.

Humbled by Babauta's "offer," the vice-gubernatorial wannabe admitted that with the "energy of youth without guidance, nothing gets done."

Deleon Guerrero intends to continue serving the education board if permitted by the board's policy.

"I will consult my decision to the board," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

'Prepared for the Republican primary'

According to Ed Guerrero, chairman of the committee to elect Juan Babauta and Deleon Guerrero, they have submitted their application to the overall Republican Party to endorse the duo as its official candidates for the general election in November.

Two have already announced their candidacies for the gubernatorial post: Babauta and his former running mate and lieutenant governor, Diego Benavente.

The party also anticipates the filing of Rep. Heinz Hofshneider soon.

"Should there be a Republican primary, we're ready," Guerrero said.

But he hopes that the party, this time, will practice unity to achieve success in the election.

As of Saturday, Guerrero has yet to know if the Republican Party will hold a primary.

"We need to be unified and group together," he added.

DOL

From Page 1

that only 253 labor cases were filed in 2008 as compared to 812 in 2004.

San Nicolas said that, in 2005 there were 420 labor cases, then the number went down to 358 in 2006, and further decreased in 2007 with only 392 cases filed.

The trend in labor cases was among the many labor issues discussed by San Nicolas and Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat in the annual report forwarded to the Legislature last Friday.

With respect to the number of labor hearings, the secretary said the trend in 2008 was also downward primarily due to the success of Labor's mediating cases.

The trend in claims, San Nicolas said, was toward unpaid wages and away from the claims of no job provided, poor working conditions, and lack of effective supervision.

"During the period 2006-2007, only four claims involved injuries on the job and only two claims alleged unwanted physical contact," he said.

In 2008, San Nicolas said, there were no claims that involved either injuries on the job or unwanted physical contact.

On the number of alien workers legally present in the CNMI, the secretary said as of Dec. 31, 2008, Labor had issued 22,917 work permits during the year in the foreign worker immigration category.

He explained that Labor only counts its administrative operations; it does not conduct any census of alien workers actually present in the CNMI.

San Nicolas said the number of permits issued is greater than the number of workers present in the Commonwealth at any given point in a typical year because some permit actions are contract amendments or extensions and affect a single worker and some permit holders elect to leave the Commonwealth during the year for personal or employments reasons.

He said some employers also implement reductions in force and cancel their "issued" permits for some of their workers, while other employers close their businesses entirely and their "issued" permits are cancelled by Labor.

The secretary said there also 37 additional foreign workers who do not hold work permits but who hold temporary work authorizations.

He said there are 70 alien workers who do not hold work permits, but hold memoranda authorizing them to seek work while their labor cases are pending.

CUC

From Page 1

children, our senior citizens, businesses, and all other CNMI residents and visitors," the order said.

Press Secretary Charles Reyes has said CUC will most likely remain under a state of emergency as long as the emergency Aggreko generators are in place. The order suspends procurement regulations for CUC, allowing the utility company to retain the generators and any other equipment or supplies necessary to maintain reliable power. It also suspends local environmental regulations.

There are now 12 reasons why the emergency is necessary, Fitial stated. The declaration said that although enough power to the island is being produced, distributing it continues to be a problem for the utility agency because of the failing equipment.

CUC suffered 30 hours of distribution system failures during the month of December, including a one-hour islandwide outage on Dec. 22. During the month of January, CUC experienced 22 hours of partial blackouts and one four-hour Islandwide outage.

CUC's water and wastewater division continues to face growing problems, according to the declaration. Sixteen pumps are out of service at water wells, and during the month of January, wastewater collection mains and laterals failed at more than 20 points due to grease, bundles of rags and other debris. Such failures could harm CUC's ability to meet requirements set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Fitial wrote.

In November, the U.S. Department of Justice and the EPA filed a civil suit against CUC to compel it to adhere to federal regulations governing water, sewer, power, and fuel. If certain stipulations are not met, CUC can be penalized up to $1,000 per day per violation for the first 30 days; $2,000 per day per violation following the 30 days; and $5,000 per day per violation for each day after.

Also, the declaration cites the new rates set by the Public Utilities Commission that went into effect Jan. 1 as one of the findings for the emergency order. PUC adopted a levelized energy adjustment clause of 23 cents per kilowatt-hour. The rate will stay in place until March 31, when the PUC will review the rate and set a new LEAC for the next six months.

Fitial directs CUC to do the same measures as past declarations. They include: documenting procurement activity and notifying specific officials; contracting with an independent power producer for two years or less; providing within 30 days permits or compliance plans; procuring the labor and equipment needed to fix the Chalan Kiya distribution system; and removing used oil from tank 104 and other barrels.

DELAY

From Page 1

Bush, federal immigration laws will extend to the CNMI, something that local government officials, business and tourism leaders, and community members believe will be detrimental to the Commonwealth's workforce, tourism market and economy.

"There are substantial reasons for pushing back the June 1 transition date," Sablan said in a statement. "And Congress foresaw that there might be. That's why Public Law 110-229 does allow the Secretary of Homeland Security to decide to delay implementation. I had a very productive conversation with Mr. Barth, who brought a team of experts from the department with him to our meeting. I think we are in agreement that continued contact and discussion is going to be essential to a smooth transition and I look forward to working with the new Obama Administration in this way."

One of the key reasons Sablan said he is asking for a delay is because there has been no money appropriated for border controls. One of the reasons that China and Russia were recently left out of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program, Sablan noted, is that DHS believed border security was not adequate at this time.

"But this costs money. And no money has been appropriated by Congress to set up the NMI borders," he said. "So it makes sense for me to work in Congress to get the needed funds for fiscal year 2010 and have DHS complete the build up of the entry points after Oct. 1, when the fiscal year begins and new money could be available."

A change in administration has also affected the timing of the implementation, Sablan said. With Obama and his new cabinet members just now coming into office, publishing regulations regarding investor visas and other federalization issues have been delayed, therefore leaving little time for public comment and consideration before June 1.

"When the law was drafted, I don't think anyone took into account how a presidential transition might affect the implementation timeline. But this is another reason that it makes sense to use the 180-day extension the law allows," he added. "We want to make sure that when federal immigration control begins it doesn't hurt individuals and businesses already in the Commonwealth. That's why I'm working for the six month delay."

Meanwhile, the congressman said a Legislature-approved bill would triple funding for the CNMI's children's health insurance program

"This is one of the largest percentage increases for any state or territory," he said. "And the bill is on track to be signed into law very shortly."

The State Children's Health Insurance Program is targeted at families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private health insurance for their children. Democrats in Congress twice had similar legislation vetoed by Bush. Obama is expected to sign the new SCHIP bill, fulfilling a campaign pledge to expand health insurance coverage for children.

Fitial assures Chinese association he will 'fight' for their NMI stay

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R Fitial assured the Chinese community on island that his administration will continue the "fight" for their stay in the Commonwealth.

Over a hundred Chinese nationals gathered at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Saturday night for their final hooray to the Chinese New Year.

Fitial, one of the event's guest speakers, had spoken before the crowd about the challenges faced by the CNMI in this Year of the Ox.

Fitial

Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr. yesterday reiterated the position of the governor on the exclusion of the Chinese and Russian markets to the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program which is slated to be enforced on June 1.

"The governor will not give up and assured Chinese nationals that he will continue to address that," Reyes said, adding that the administration is working closely with federal policy lawmakers on how changes can be effected on the regulation.

The press secretary described the federalization law the "perfect financial storm" for the CNMI.

He said what the governor wants is for the federal government to continue to look for solutions that will protect both the national security as well as the islands' economic security.

"China is a very significant market for us…especially on Tinian," Reyes said, alluding to the mostly Chinese clientele of the casino industry on island.

Fitial, along with local lawmakers, is pushing for at least delay on the implementation of the federalization law to give NMI ample time to build the necessary infrastructure.

"For the governor, it's worth giving all our efforts for these markets," he said.

During the Jan. 26 celebration of Chinese New Year, Chinese Association of Saipan chairwoman Rose Chan said they were saddened by the federal government's decision.

"We will miss Saipan," she told *Saipan Tribune*, admitting that the arrivals from China will see a significant decline once federalization takes into effect.

She believes that the "new system" may take away the interest of many Chinese who want to visit the island.

"But we're still hoping for the best for the CNMI," she said.

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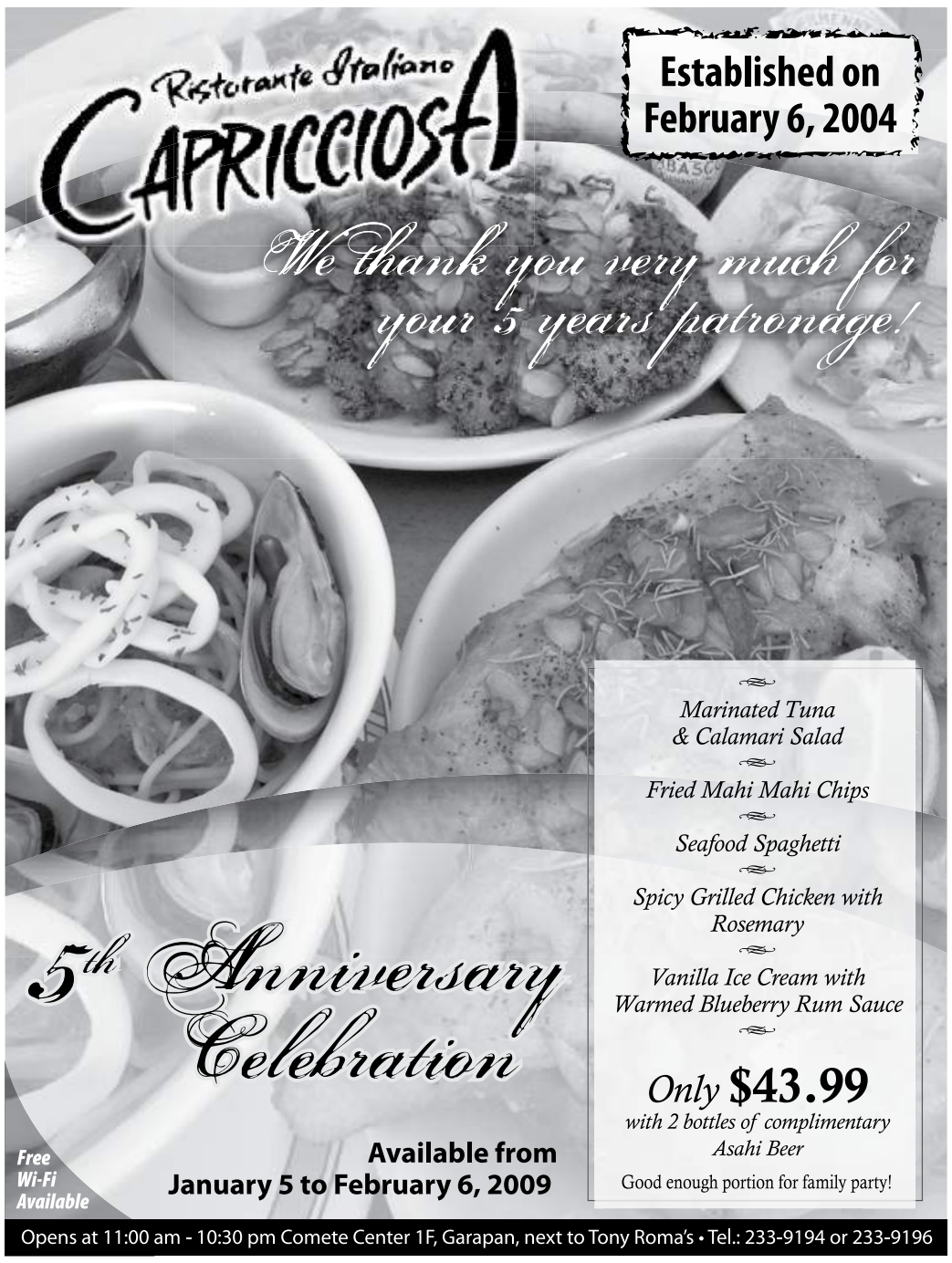
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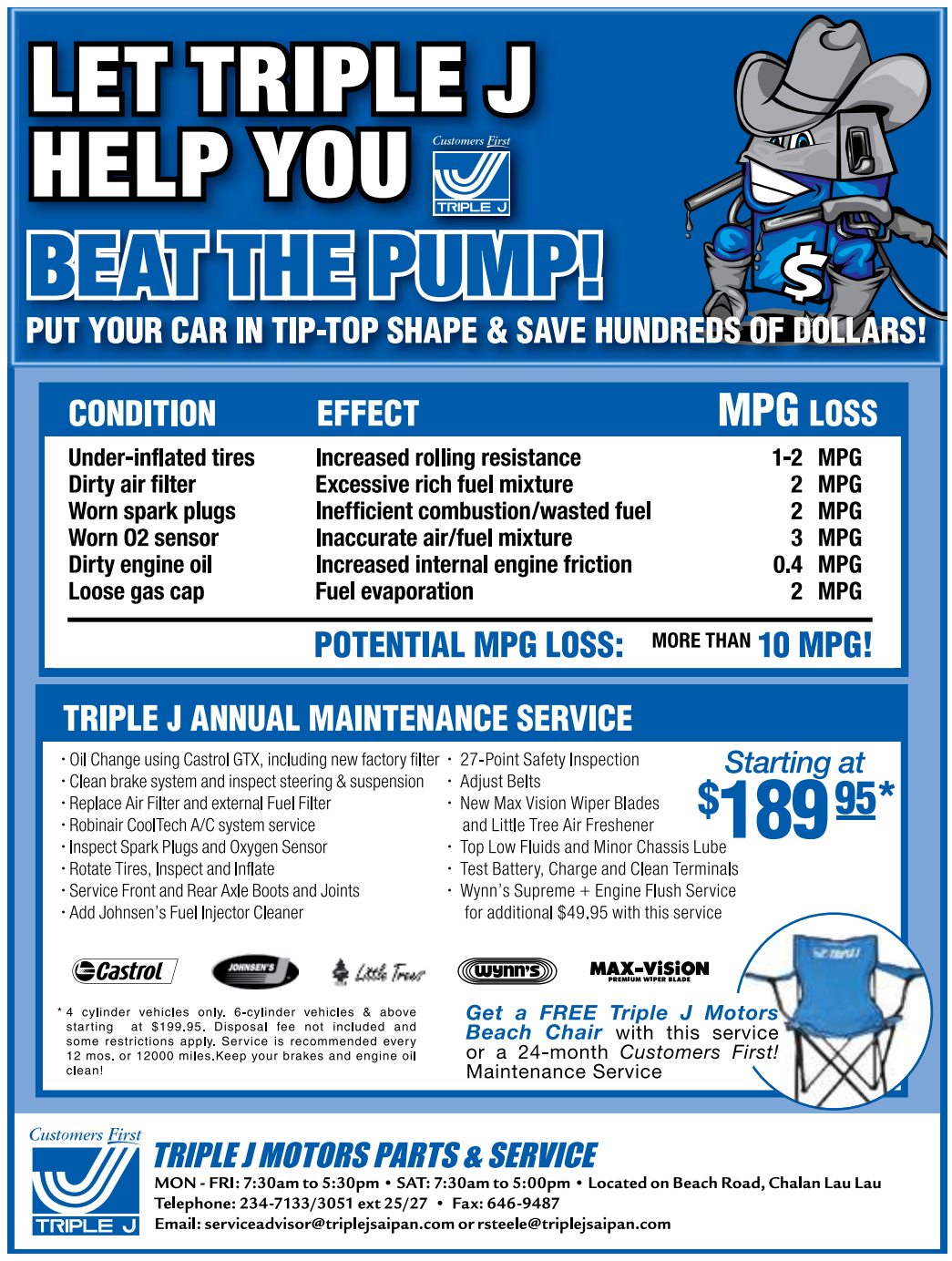
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Autonomy of advanced nurse practitioners pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners is asking for supporting letters from doctors to allow advanced nurse practitioners in the CNMI to work without the supervision of physicians.

The board wants Senate Bill 16-44—which allows advanced nurse practitioners to work without physicians' supervision—to be passed by the House.

In a separate eight-point position statement on the bill yesterday, the CNMI Nurse Practitioners Association said the CNMI cannot afford to block the autonomy of "professionally trained" and educated licensed" nurse practitioners given the current shortage of healthcare providers.

"Realize that blocking nurse practitioners autonomy hurts everyone! And will hinder access to healthcare when we are already struggling with lack of healthcare providers," said the group.

Nursing board chair Bertha P. Camacho urges physicians and others in the community to show support to the bill by attending the House session on Tuesday.

"Your presence will be greatly appreciated but if you can not be there, a supporting letter will be just as important," Camacho said yesterday. She said she or somebody from her office can pick up the support letter and brought to the Southern Community Wellness Center in San Antonio.

Camacho said supporting letters from physicians will help lawmakers understand that there are physicians who support the autonomy of nurse practitioners and provide collaborative care rather than "delegative" care.

The nurses group urged lawmakers to recognize that the CNMI currently has professionally trained and educated licensed nurse practitioners for over seven years who can provide safe, quality health care.

The group said these practitioners have been proven to significantly improve access to quality health care services, including those at the Southern Community Wellness Center Women's Clinic at the Commonwealth Health Center, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center.

"[Key leaders should] realize that with the economy sinking and the number of uninsured persons rising, legislators must release themselves from medical society influences and listen to consumer and patient needs," said the nursing group.

S.B. 16-44, introduced by Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola, has already been transmitted to the House of Representatives which will have a session on Tuesday.

In the bill, Mendiola said since advanced practice registered nurses also hold degrees, they can attend independently to patients, and serve as "alternative health care providers."

The Senate Health and Welfare Committee, in its report recommending the bill's passage, cited the difficulty of recruiting physicians and the lack of staff at the hospital and other health centers in the CNMI.

The report said health care is severely disrupted when a doctor goes on vacation or abruptly leaves, which has happened many times.

School 'kantinas' back in operation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Small canteens in public school campuses are now back after the Public School System ordered them to resume operation.

This was disclosed Friday by PSS food and nutrition assistance coordinator Hee Jae Lee, who said the decision was made after the Food and Nutrition Office completed the fact-finding and monitoring of "kantinas" upon the advice from the commissioner's office.

In latter part of 2008, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan suspended the canteens' operation due to "irregularities" of some vendors and "safety issues" for students.

It was earlier found out that some vendors were selling "unhealthy" foods to students while others sold food during lunch hours when kids are about to receive their school meals from the cafeteria.

"School canteens are back in operation…depending on the principals," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that because of the "corrective" measures and proper guidelines formulated by the system some schools opted not to run it because of the "list" of requirements to be met.

Among these requirements, Lee said, was the Bureau of Environmental Health's guidelines on food temperatures.

"The monitoring is to make sure that the foods being sold are safe…and based on our nutritionist's guidelines," she said.

Describing the early "findings" as minor issues, Lee is confident schools that decide to continue their agreement with kantinas will comply with the requirements.

As of Friday, she said about seven to eight schools have decided to open their kantinas. Among these schools are Marianas High School, Hopwood Junior High, and Saipan Southern High.

Principals in both primary and secondary levels were earlier saddened by the temporary closure of the school kantinas, citing the significant help it brings to their needs.

Saipan Tribune learned that a certain percentage—10 percent to 20 percent—of the net sales is remitted to the school that hosts the kantina. The funds, which approximately range from $200 to $400 monthly, are used by schools to buy immediate needs such as toiletries, supplies, fuel, and used for immediate repairs.

Food vendors and the schools sign memorandums of agreement for the kantinas.

At Kagman Elementary School, *Saipan Tribune* learned that Lucky Restaurant is remitting about $400 monthly to the school as part of its MOA. The company has been doing "business" with the school since 2000.

Friday, Lee lauded the commissioner's move in putting control and close monitoring on the school food operations.

Education Board vice chair Herman T. Guerrero, chairman of the fiscal and personnel affairs committee, suggested that school kantinas may consider selling "small supplies" for students and teachers.

"Instead of the non-nutritious junk foods, why not sell supplies to the kids?" he asked.

He believes that if "irregularities" will continue in the operation of kantinas, this will conflict with PSS' goal of promoting good health.

"If we will allow it…it will contradict what PSS wants to convey. All our efforts in incorporating P.E. into our curriculum will go to waste because there's no balance," he said.

Man gets 11-day jail term for conspiracy to rob poker room

The Superior Court has handed an 11-day jail term on one of four men who conspired to stage an armed robbery at a poker arcade in San Antonio.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced the 20-year-old Clifford Jack Palacios Masga to 30 days in jail, all suspended except 11 days, for conspiracy to commit robbery.

Manglona gave Masga credit for the 11 days he already served in prison.

The judge placed the defendant on probation for six months and required him to pay a $500 fine, $100 court assessment fee, and a $60 annual probation fee.

Masga was ordered to pay his share of the restitution to Golden Poker in the amount of $1,011.25.

Manglona required the defendant to write a letter of apology to Golden Poker and perform 100 hours of community work service.

The judge directed Masga to complete a General Education Development program during the term of his probation.

Masga, Anthony Campos, Michael Jordan Palacios, and Patrick C. Ito were arrested in April 2007 for reportedly conspiring to rob Golden Poker Game Room on April 12 that year.

Masga signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery.

Police said three masked men, armed with a crowbar, pipe, and hammer, robbed the Golden Poker of $4,045 cash. The robbery happened in the wake of several poker robberies on Saipan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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$60,000 in NMI publicity with upcoming media visits

The Northern Mariana Islands is set to receive an estimated $60,000 in publicity after two familiarization tours by Korean media outlets over the next couple weeks.

Hankook Ilbo reporter Sung-Won Lee arrived on Saipan to experience the island and prepare a feature article for the daily newspaper, one of Korea's major national papers with a circulation of a million readers.

Hankook Ilbo is anticipated to promote the Northern Marianas as a family travel destination. Lee's visit to Saipan is expected to include an island tour, snorkeling and underwater sea walking off Managaha Island, a monster truck off-road adventure, an evening of shopping at DFS Galleria, and jet skiing or parasailing. The reporter will stay at Saipan World Resort and also have time to enjoy the resort water park during his tour before his departure on Feb. 3.

"We are fortunate to have Hankook Ilbo see value in the Northern Marianas as a tourist destination and give us widespread publicity," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "While fewer Koreans—and tourists worldwide—are visiting long-haul destinations during this economic downturn, the Northern Marianas still offers a close vacation option."

Next Tuesday, Korean monthly magazine Tour de Monde will send editors Eun-Gee Kim and Ju-Eun Bae to experience the Northern Mariana Islands for six days and write a feature article to increase awareness of the islands. The tour will take an island tour and lodge at Rota Resort and Country Club, where they will also inspect the golf course. On Tinian they will take another island tour and stay at the world-class Tinian Dynasty Resort & Casino. On Saipan they will spend a morning of fun in the sun at Managaha Island, tour the island, and enjoy the water park and accommodations of Saipan World Resort.

Since the first publication in 1996, Tour De Monde has been highly recognized as a unique travel guidebook for people who love to travel. With a circulation of 50,000 readers, the magazine features vivid stories about various cities, people, cultures, festivals and food around the globe.

The fam tour is supported by Saipan World Resort, Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, and Rota Resort and Country Club, providing accommodation and meals; Mode Tour, providing discount airfare to Rota; KPS Corp., providing a discounted rate on the off-road adventure tour; and Tasi Tour, providing free Managaha Ferry transportation and snorkeling gear rental. ***(PR)***

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to Ms. Chris Justino. Love always your family and Lauren and Elize and may the dear Lord continue to bless you and may all your wishes come true!

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TO ENSURE ENOUGH FUNDS FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

DCCA limits application for child care program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the agency that handles the government's child care program, is limiting the issuance of application forms for the program to ensure it has enough funding for eligible families.

"The child care program needs to be mindful of its expenditures as we don't want to end up with too many families eligible for the program and not enough funds to support the child care service needs of these eligible families," Celes said Friday in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The child care program was transferred to the department from the Public School System last year. It has an approved $5.1 million three-year grant from the federal government, or $1.8 million annually.

However, Celes said CNMI does not receive its funding in a lump sum and is usually provided in a quarterly basis.

Since a couple of weeks ago, the department has posted in its offices notice of non-availability of forms for the program.

The department secretary said the applications are per household basis.

She cited that an application for one household may have two children while some households may have five children.

On top of this, the ages of the children range from 0-12 years old.

"In essence, if all 50 families who picked up an application form and becomes eligible, it could possibly mean 75 to 100 children with different ages between 0-12 years being eligible for the program. It is for these reasons that the program will need to limit the applications," she said.

However, the secretary said that once monthly expenditures are reviewed and see a "surplus" on the funds, they will open the program for additional families.

She explained that for those who were able to get an application and submitted all the required documents, the Child Care program will process them.

These families, she added, will either qualify or not.

For those wanting to apply and were not able to get an application, she said they will have to wait for the next announcement for the opening of the program which will be made public.

"The CNMI does not maintain a wait list for the child care program," the secretary said.

Celes said that as of Thursday, they registered 19 center-based providers for the program.

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Coke holiday promo rings in bright New Year for winners

The New Year augurs a bright beginning in 2009 for the grand drawing winners of the Coca-Cola "Spread the Spirit" promo.

This is especially true for budding motocross enthusiast, 8-year-old Kairi Tabuchi who won the grand prize, a Yamaha XT 225 motorcycle from Coca-Cola Beverage Company Micronesia, Inc. and Joeten Motor Company, Inc.

The youngest winner of the Coca-Cola "Spread the Spirit" promo and a Coke fanatic, Kairi says he was glad he asked his mom to buy Coke, as it brought them a brand new motorcycle.

"I'm very happy that I won," Kairi says. "I asked my mom to buy Coke, my favorite drink, and she wrote my name on the entry form."

The young Tabuchi was accompanied by his parents, Takeshi and Michiyo Tabuchi, when he claimed his motorcycle. Since Kairi is a minor, his parents were awarded the prize.

The new motorcycle that Kairi won is intended for licensed drivers and for use on the main road and so, Kairi will have to wait a while before he can ride it.

But Kairi is not in a hurry to go on the main road, as he has his weekends at Cow Town where he gets into gear for motocross.

Takeshi said that he has been riding motorbikes on the road for a long time, but Kairi offers that his dad "does only a little bit of motocross." It's the younger Tabuchi who is really keen on motocross, which started two years ago, when he was 7. Kairi turns 9 on Jan. 29.

"We gave him a small Chinese motorbike for his birthday present. Then he showed a lot of interest in the motorcycle. First he was learning how to ride, now he can jump," Takeshi said.

Supporting his son's interest in motocross, Takeshi said that he and his wife gave Kairi a PW 80, a starter motorcycle so that he could learn how to operate the clutch. Later, they have upgraded to a Y285, which is almost the same as a competition machine.

The winner of the baby grand prize, a PGO Metro Buddy scooter, Angeline Joseph says that she does not know yet what she will do with her winning, but said, "I know that I will come up with a good plan."

A staff at one of the local hotels, Joseph said that she did not expect to win, "It took a lot of convincing to make me believe that I won since this is my first time to join a giveaway and also my first time to win. I'm so excited that I won. I did put in a lot of coupons, as my family and I drink a lot of Coke products especially during family gatherings."

Gloria V. Silvestre, says that she and her three children are off to a good start in 2009 after winning the first prize, an Acer Aspire One laptop, which was jointly provided by Coca-Coca Beverage Company Micronesia, Inc. and Megabyte.

A Saipan resident of 19 years, Silvestre says that she is glad she and her family are regular Coke drinkers, as it brought them the prize that they wanted. "I'm very happy to have received this laptop from Coke. My kids are all happy about it. God knows we need it as my children are now in high school and a computer will help with their studies."

Two-time winner Roel Cabacungan says that he couldn't believe his luck when he was informed that he won again. "It must have been luck plus all those cans of Coke that my coworkers and I drank when we worked on a project in Kagman. I used to buy the drinks for all of us and I was given several coupons at a time."

Cabacungan won an overnight stay for two at Aqua Resort Club in the first drawing and an iConnect 425 cellular phone with phone card in the grand drawing.

Another iConnect 425 cellular phone with phone card winner, Rodney M. Reyes, says that he used to work for Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc.

"I've needed a cellular phone and wanted to buy one. Now, I don't have to buy anymore. Coke should do this kind of promotion more often," Reyes says.

Mike R. Cruz Jr. and Ritchell Q. Sublemente, two of three winners of Wave Jungle passes for four with brunch at Saipan World Resort say that they would take their family to a fun day at the water park. The third winner, Mario Tayag, was not present at the awarding.

Marjorie Arugay, winner of an overnight stay for two at Aqua Resort Club, says that she hoped to win the grand prize, but is happy nonetheless that she won even though she did not get the motorcycle.

Seven other winners did not make it to the awarding of prizes. They are Jesus Marfil, Leo C. Factor, and Catherine C. Naruso, who each won one 6-Foot Subway Party Sub; Marjorie Arugay and Nestor Cayaman, winners of an overnight stay at Aqua Resort Club; Hilda Sanga, the third winner of iConnect cellular phone; and Mario Tayag, the third winner of Jungle Wave passes.

The Coca-Cola® "Spread the Spirit" promo is an expression of the "Coke Side of Holiday." ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Derwin Johnson and Elsie San Nicolas for welcoming to the world Ma'ina San Nicolas Johnson. Greetings from Lori and Kyla, Carol and Frank, and Lorraine and Ton.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 2, 1999

Garment sector, gov't must ally

A top executive of the leading U.S. apparel company Liz Claiborne Inc. yesterday issued stern warning to CNMI officials against Saipan becoming a "ghost town" when it risks losing a competitive edge in the multi-billion dollar global clothing trade. Unless they form a strong partnership with the garment sector to deal with serious problems, the local industry will lose out to other countries competing for the huge domestic market in the mainland, according to Paul R. Charron, chairman and chief executive officer of the New Jersey-based firm. "You should be bold and courageous in confronting the very serious threat to your economy," he told local lawmakers in a meeting at the House chamber.

JAL offers holiday discounts

With the initial success of its promotional campaign, Japan Airlines will provide discounted air fare to Saipan on three special occasions in May, June and July to entice more Japanese tourist to come here. According to Kaishun Nishigaya, JAL general manager, the airline will provide special rates on Mother's Day on May 9, Father's Day on June 20 and Tanabata (Festival of the Weaver) on July 7. The reduction in rate was part of the airline's commitment to help the CNMI increase its market share in Japan. Last month, the airline launched its "JAL-Saipan Campaign" targeting some 15,000 additional visitors.

February 2, 2000

Mobil hikes oil prices by 4 cents

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. increased the prices of its three major oil products by four cents beginning yesterday, a senior company official disclosed, citing external market forces which have forced international market prices up since January. The oil company has been forced to adjust the prices of regular and premium fuel, as well as of diesel, because of the continuous rise in prices of petroleum products in the Singapore regional market. Mobil gas stations in the islands yesterday started selling regular unleaded fuel at $2.02 per gallon from the previous $1.98, while premium fuel is now sold at $2.09 per gallon from $2.05 last month.

Marubeni dismisses bribery allegations

Marubeni Corporation broke its silence yesterday for the first time to deny allegations that it bribed Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez to win the contract on the controversial Saipan power project. The Japanese conglomerate does not have any relations with certain Mr. Kobayashi of the NK3 Corporation, nor it has ties with that company, according to a statement issued by its lawyers on Saipan, Carlsmith Ball. The charges linking Marubeni, one of the bidders on the mothballed 80-megawatt plant, to the purported wrongdoing committed by Mr. Villagomez were part of an affidavit that it said had already been discredited by the Attorney General's Office.

February 2, 2001

Fitial joins gubernatorial race

Armed with a strong campaign platform that lays down concrete plans on making education accessible to all and the determination to alleviate CNMI's economic woes, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial announced he is running for governor in the November polls. He joins three other prominent personalities who have officially announced plans to run for the hotly-contested seat in Capitol Hill come general elections in a little over eight months. A seasoned lawmaker, Mr. Fitial enjoys the strong support of the business community due to his optimistic visions on the capabilities of the local economy to flourish given the right utilization of available resources.

Disconnection notices alarmed Teno

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio will convene his finance managers to explore solutions to the growing concerns on the government's overdue utility bills that necessitated the release of disconnection notices to 40 agencies and offices. Mr. Tenorio will meet with officials from the Department of Finance, headed by Secretary Lucy Dlg. Nielsen to ensure the continued supply of power in all government offices amid disconnection notices from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. "I called up the secretary of finance and I will be meeting with the staff to find out what we can do to resolve this issue," said the local chief executive in an interview after signing a proclamation commending contributions by the Boy Scout in the community.

Pacific

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Bainimarama 'not doing justice to Fijians'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—Samoa's prime minister, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, has criticised the Fiji's interim prime minister, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, for not keeping his word and hold elections by March.

Tuilaepa says that following this week's Pacific Islands Forum special meeting PNG, there was consensus among Forum leaders to demand that elections be held. He says the Fiji interim prime minister's stance is not doing justice to the people of Fiji. "Fiji was one of the founding members during the time of Ratu Mara, a very respected leader and here we have another Fijian leader who is undoing everything that Ratu Mara stood for, he is not doing justice to the people of Fiji and the leadership of Fiji."

Samoa reconsiders setting prisoners free on weekends

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—There is growing support in Samoa for the government to stop releasing prisoners for week-end parole after a seventy year old taxi driver was robbed and beaten by a week-end parole prisoner. The police say the inmate after beating the elderly man took off in the victim's car last Saturday. The taxi driver, Lupe Fulumua, on a local television has supported a call by a government MP, Solamalemalo Keneti Sio, for the prisoners to serve in full their jail sentence without sending them home for week-end parole. That weekend parole is a privilege, but after the latest incident many people are now voicing to scrap it altogether. "I think it's now the matter for the Minister of Police to consider it and it needs a lot of support from NGO's and lobby groups for the government to seriously consider this as a result of the latest incident involving a weekend parole prisoner."

Marshalls to have police training this year

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—The standard of policing in the Marshall Islands is set to improve when a police training academy is held in Majuro later this year. The academy is supported by the Australian Federal Government's Pacific Police Development Programme. The academy is a huge step forwards given the lack of training police officers have. People get hired just to basically you know graduate from high school or maybe college get hired for the job so then OK you're a policeman and here's ten days of on the job training no go to it. The aim is to hold the police training academy is planned for June.

Fiji water bottlers to pay tax on water

'Water resource tax' applies to the lucrative Fiji export

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive)—No more controversies on taxing Fiji bottling companies for the extraction of natural artesian water.

It has now been gazetted that all companies that will extract water in its natural state, including artesian, natural and spring water, will be levied a water resource tax effective this month.

This water resource tax will be assessed by an officer through measuring or examining the volume of water extracted for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of tax leviable on them.

The water resource tax promulgation released this month gives effect to the water tax as announced by the interim Minister for Finance and National Planning in his budget address last November.

Subject to provisions of the promulgation, a tax appropriate rate shall be levied upon the extraction of water in its natural state, including artesian water, natural mineral and spring water, from an underground water table or deposit and emerging from a spring tapped at one or more natural or bore exits, for sale for human consumption.

"The water resource tax is payable by any business extracting water in its natural state for the purpose of bottling or packaging for sale; and the volume of water extracted shall be measured by an approved metre on a monthly basis," the government gazette stated.

It stated that the accountable person, in this case the owner, manager or director of the company, must within 14 working days pay the Comptroller any water resource tax that had been payable the previous month.

And necessary information like the monthly volume of extraction, monthly volume of all extracted water lost in that factory by evaporating or leakages, and monthly production figures for finished product, must accompany payments.

"If water resource tax is not paid in accordance with subsection (1), the accountable person is liable to a penalty at a rate of 10 per cent of the unpaid water resource tax in addition to the water resource tax.

"And if the default continues, an additional 2.5 per cent penalty per month of default shall be added to the 10 per cent penalty if the default continues for more than one month after the due date for payment," the gazette stated.

PNG's oil search reports record $811M profit in 2008

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National)—Oil Search's operating revenue for last year was a record US$812.6 million (PGK2.2 billion), up 13 percent from the previous year.

The key driver behind the result was the strong oil price despite a sharp decline in the fourth quarter.

This was revealed in Oil Search's fourth quarter report released yesterday by the company.

Commenting on the period in review, managing director Peter Botten said conditions in the second half of last year were some of the most challenging ever experienced by those in energy development.

He said oil prices plummeted from an all time high of US$147 (PGK398.91) per barrel in mid-2008 to around US$40 (PGK108.55) per barrel at the end of the year, with the banking crisis causing widespread concerns about corporate liquidity.

Mr. Botten, however, said Oil Search was in a good position to weather this storm having a strong cash position, a recently completed debt facility and steady production from relatively low costs oil fields in PNG.

"Given this backdrop Oil Search's performance for last year was pleasing with operating revenues reaching a new high for the company of US$812 million, 13 percent higher than in 2007.

"From this, production rose 2 percent in the fourth quarter reflecting the success of the ongoing in-field development drilling program at Kutubu," he said.

Botten said Oil Search had benefited from a full-year of revenue from one of its two new drilling rigs operating in Papua New Guinea, with the second rig starting operations shortly before year-end.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Reforming Illinois

Illinois's 52-day televised nightmare came to a blessed end Thursday when the state Senate voted unanimously to convict Democrat Rod Blagojevich on an article of impeachment for an alleged pattern of abuse of power, ousted him from the governorship and expelled him from public life in the state forever. He is the first Illinois governor to be impeached, and if U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald proves his case against him, he would be the third Illinois governor since 1973 to be convicted after leaving office. The antics of Blagojevich since his arrest Dec. 9 have made the Land of Lincoln a punch line at the very moment it should be celebrating having President Obama of Illinois in the White House.

Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn, the former lieutenant governor sworn in almost immediately after Blagojevich's fall, wasted no time in setting a new tone in words and in deeds. "We are going to fumigate state government from top to bottom to make sure there's no corruption," Quinn declared Friday as he issued his first executive order, creating the Illinois Reform Commission. The body must deliver its recommendations within 100 days. He also expressed support for a state constitutional amendment that would give voters the power to recall elected officials. Quinn should also push for passage of a special-election law that would have future U.S. Senate vacancies filled not by the governor but by the voters.

Quinn's efforts add to another significant move by the legislature last year. Effective Jan. 1, businesses with state contracts worth more than $50,000 are prohibited from donating to the political campaigns of the person who signs the contract. Blagojevich was caught on wiretaps allegedly discussing ways to amass as much campaign cash as possible before the law took effect. And he was overheard allegedly trying to use his appointment of Obama's Senate replacement as a way to get something "tangible up front" from a potential appointee to demonstrate willingness to raise campaign cash for the governor if he decided to run for a third term in 2010. Now that Blagojevich has been banished from Illinois's public life for good, there's no danger of that happening.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

What happened to the man in gentleman?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

As reported by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency from 2007 and up to the middle of 2008, the shelter for abused victims of domestic violence cared for 179 cases. If the true figure were known it would probably be three times that. Since domestic violence is a highly underreported crime, we will never know the exact number of abused women. Unfortunately for them, many refuse to report the incidents of abuse for whatever reason, whether shame or fear.

Almost daily we read about men being charged with spouse abuse. Many of them get too light of a sentence with only a few days or hours in jail with the rest of their sentence suspended. Some of them receive several years jail sentence. At least they will not be around for some time to continue punching women. I hope that they become punching bags for some of the other inmates while in jail.

What is it that provokes a man to do such a dastardly deed? Can there be any excuse for such actions? Should spouse abuse be blamed on alcohol or on any other reasons? What has happened to the "gentleman" that should be in all of us men? Where is the "manliness in man? What happened to respect for woman? How much of this is based on our social customs? What are we teaching our young people about male and female relationships? This wild beast action shows an underlining sickness that must be rooted out.

While I was growing up, I never saw my father raise his voice or his hand to my mother. In fact my father was one of the gentlest men I have ever known. He has been my role model throughout my entire married life and in my relations with all women.

It is heartening to see that more and more women are speaking out against abuse they receive from their husbands or other men. Increasingly we read about the disgusting true facts about domestic violence against wives and children. I have never been able to understand how a man can continuously abuse his wife and children. To what depths of depravity has he sunk? He seems to have lost all self-respect. How can he look himself in the mirror? Is he the Neanderthal man returned with club in hand and replaced the gentleman?

The concept of a gentleman is easily understood by studying the word: "gentle man." The gentleman is one who never inflicts pain.

In any circumstance, he seems to know how to act. His manners and knowledge, like his clothing, are worn lightly, never ostentatiously. In company the gentleman never calls attention to himself by flaunting his superiority in learning, behavior, dress or conversation. When he has something of value to say, he says it with calmness and brevity. Even if he is an expert on a subject, he never resorts to showing off.

Gentlemanness or manliness is really about what's on the inside, not on the outside of a man. The true gentleman feels confident, self-assured, modest and considerate. Don't confuse true gentlemanness with mere surface polish, flattery and dandyism. The counterfeit gentleman is nothing but surface veneer. He is a man of shallow charm and sophistication. When his real personality suddenly explodes, everybody is shocked.

See WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letter to the Editor

The Super Bowl of our lives

I went to school in Dallas, Texas in the late '60s and early '70s where football is gladiatorial sport religiously practiced by no less than America's Team, the Dallas Cowboys. But I moved on after graduation back to the third world, and except for the occasional college bowl game I manage to catch in fancy hotel rooms, or at the homes of friends who can afford satellite TV, contact with the contact sport had been very minimal.

Oh, there was that one January day in 1990 when the *Aleman* contingent at the International School in Makati diplomatic corps and international aid agency children decided to teach my 16-year-old English-Scot-German-Irish-Sino-Malay daughter how to handle a keg of *Reinheitsgebot* ("purity order") pilsener in one of those very early morning viewing of the gridiron extravaganza called the Super Bowl.

Joe Montana led the San Francisco 49ers the year before against the Cincinnati Bengals, a thrilling encounter that has been rated as the No. 1 bowl game ever. The 49ers were going for a back-to-back championship performance against John Elway of the Denver Broncos, their fourth appearance after three previous disappointing efforts. This time, it did not prove to be any different. In fact, this was the most lopsided bowl of all times with the 49ers making eight touchdowns against the Broncos touchdown and a field goal.

I faithfully performed my genial doting father function as I kept a watchful on my daughter who accepted the beer-drinking challenge as an act "to reclaim my culture." But those were the days when professional football was just as wild and unpredictable as their amateur college counterparts have been. Now, the Super Bowl has become a contest of the ads on who could push the envelope the farthest this side of "shocking", and to assess the quality of the half-time entertainment, making sure the artist's attire do not come unglued in the middle of a performance. The game itself has become a highly orchestrated dance of the highly paid athletes resembling that of professional wrestling!

Speaking of being "unglued," it is no longer inaccurate to describe our times as the ungluing of the oil-driven industrial era, or what we knew to be civilization in the last century and a half. On the peak oil journey, i.e., the projected quantity of non-renewable fossil fuel available in the planet, we have now reached the halfway point. Yet, the demand is not showing a trend of less usage. On the contrary, with the voracious appetites of India and China to produce goods for their bourgeoning population as well as to stock the WalMarts and the Debenhams of the world, the Rupee and Yuan economies are not about to let up in their demand for oil. We are on the down slope of the heretofore civilized world of Paris, Rome, Berlin, and London popularized by New York and Los Angeles for the Tokyos and the Rios of the planet! Our global military presence is predicated on the continuing privilege of managing that fuel supply.

The entire hierarchical ordering that we have called "civilization" since Sargon of Akkad deposed the King of Kish and created the patterns and practices of Empire, up to the reign of wistful wispy King George II in the White House where his minions and the surrogate but functional President Dick Cheney would echo the Nixonian dictum that a sitting president cannot do anything illegal at times of war, the ways of autocracy and representative rule is in a steep decline.

But more immediately, the collapse of the deregulated but actually un-free market is already unglued. The ponzi/pyramidal schemes of the Madoffs of the world have come to roost in crashed retirement fund values and the disappearing previously reliable investments virtues.

Behind the widespread and massive Obama call to service is the profound understanding that "We are the hope that we have been waiting for" —neither the king nor the court jester commands allegiance; the citizen can now claim the helm of local requirements. Already, White rhetoric is the popularization of the JFK challenge: "ask not what your country can do for,—ask what you can do for your country." Barack goes one step further, identifying as responsible citizenship the brotherhood/sisterhood keepership of everyone. "You are your brothers/sisters' keeper." A new poster currently being used proclaims, however, with a slight twist: "If you are here to help me, thank you, but No. But if you are here because you are in the same journey as I am, welcome."

We have come to the Super Bowl game of our lives, locally, regionally and globally. It is a life and death issue. Already, reports of homicides and suicides directly caused by the economic collapse and continuing debacles are geometrically increasing. As in every crisis, the reptilian brain's response is to flee or fight.

I stepped out of bounds of the current PSS game on MLK Jr. day when I announced to my peers and administrators that I was moving away from my 6th grade classroom and resigning/re-signing with PSS. It was time to speak truth to power.

My next door classroom neighbor Tara White (I did not ask any of the teachers mentioned here permission to use their names, but I have mentioned them before in public, so I will take the risk of incurring their ire) who teaches one of five 6th grade classes at SVES comes to class with the responsibility of a fulltime teacher but with the status and pay of a three-month contracted substitute teachers. She is categorized as an unpassed PRAXIS non-Highly Qualified Teacher!

Substitute teachers are qualified folks who walk in and out of classrooms with teacher in-charge's lesson plans prepared and ready to go. Ms. White is not a substitute teacher, but she is exploited like one, treated like an insignificant peon in some bean counter's spreadsheet, rather than the qualified fulltime classroom pedagogue that she is.

Two teachers march their children to the cafetereum every day, and I invariable run into their organized and well-behaved column down my building's stairs. Bobbie Aguon and Carmen Agulto had been teaching, it seems, since the *fanihi* was declared an endangered specie. It is a surprise that they have not been extinct-out of the PSS system yet. Bobbie and Carmen are two of our best teachers at SVES by any existing measure, but because they had not hurdled the PRAXIS eligibility line, they are deemed non-HQTs with the punitive dive of their remuneration from their previous status as certified teachers. The two-year contract cycle at PSS does not have a tenure system in place, nor do we measure effectivity. Ironically, we spend more money recruiting new workers than retaining the proven ones we already have!

Rufina Seman had been a certified teacher in the private as well as public school classrooms until PSS decided to raise the bar for certified teacher's qualification, and she was "demoted" to being merely a teacher's aide—one who functions in the classroom with the active supervision of a fulltime teacher. Rufina has been handling classes as a substitute teacher, alone and with total responsibility most recently for a class that has been abandoned because the assigned teacher this year segued into another position at centrum, presumably, because working as a fulltime teacher with substitute teacher salary is for the birds, I mean, the *fanihi*. Rufina was this year's Teacher's Aide of the Year awardee, but the description of her functions does not even come close to what she really does.

The first 30 minutes of our morning is devoted to instilling high values and virtues identified by the system. Recitation of the school philosophy and mission is a regular occurrence. They ring painfully hollow before the reality of how we debase the teachers' integrity of labor and ignored the efficacy of their endeavors. "We are not just employees on a fortnightly paycheck," teacher Rose Adams once said. "We are vocated professionals!" So far, I had not noticed BoE/PSS recognizing the hypocrisy of our treatment of teachers! The governor is no help; he refuses to appoint a Teacher's Rep to the BoE on a classic Catch-22 technicality that only highly paid lawyers can appreciate, but leaves the Board devoid of official teachers' representation!

My professional Super Bowl will have its formal kick-off pretty soon. When the whistle blows, we will see how far this new citizen of the realm can go, and how many will join the journey with a new slogan: YES, WE CAN; YES, WE WILL!

Jaime Vergara
Via e-mail

Thank you for the honor

I would like to express my gratitude to the many patients in the Saipan and Tinian community I had the honor of working with these past four years. It was a rewarding experience and I enjoyed living on the island.

Despite the numerous difficulties of trying to provide modern, compassionate healthcare to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, it was my hope to continue an Internal Medicine practice on Saipan. Unfortunately, after four years of dedicated service, my contract was not renewed by the Secretary of Public Health, Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

The timetable of my departure was such that I had little time to express my thanks to so many of you in person as I had to relocate back to the United States where I am in practice again. I wish the best for the people of the islands and hope the leaders of the Commonwealth can develop a sustainable plan that will allow appropriate healthcare for all who populate the community.

Vince Stravino MD
via e-mail

WHAT

From Page 1

It is sad to note that as we constantly realign our relationship between men and women, some of the older, finer and gentler concepts seem to be discarded or lost. I lament the loss of chivalry. Few of us ever think about being chivalrous to women. Am I right? When was the last time we practiced respect for the opposite sex? When was the last time we thought about being gentle and manly to women? Can we do without a loving woman to fulfill our needs?

Marcus Aurelius, the great Roman Emperor, in 180 A.D. wrote in his Meditations, "To be moved by passion is not manly, but that mildness and gentleness as they are more agreeable to human nature, so also are they more manly; and he who possesses these qualities possesses strength, nerves and courage, and not the man who is subject to fits of passion and discontent." When he speaks of "passion" he is of course referring to anger. Thus the man who yields to anger displays a weak character.

It has been proven that violence is a learned behavior and is passed on from generation to generation. It is not caused by alcohol or chemical substance. We also have learned that the abuser has often been abused as a child or lived in a house where he saw violence being done to either his mother or someone else. Thus he is copying what he has seen and considers being right action.

Another sad commentary about men is the unusually large number of children being born out of wedlock. Many young men fail to realize that it is so easy to become a father. But most importantly, they fail to understand the responsibility that goes with being a father. As we look around our society, why do these young men and women so readily submit themselves to parenthood without the ability or desire to accept parenthood? As result many of these relationships end up as domestic abusers to either the mother or to the child. Both parties have never learned the proper respect and conduct with each other.

While I was growing up, I never saw my father raise his voice or his hand to my mother. In fact my father was one of the gentlest men I have ever known. He has been my role model throughout my entire married life and in my relations with all women.

The other night one of my sons came up to me at bedtime and said: "Dad, when you were young, was it is like it is with you and me? You'll think I'm pretty crazy, but I wish I'd known you when you were little. I mean, about as old as I am right now. I think we would have been friends." I nodded and slowly closed the door to his room and whispered: "Good night, son."

There is a wonderful book entitled *What is A Man?* It contains over 3,000 years of wisdom on the art of manly virtue edited with commentary by Waller R. Newell. Mr. Newell has complied extracts from most of the greatest thinkers and writers who have written on this subject of "what is a man." Here is the last paragraph from his book which for me sums up what we who wish practice manliness and be gentlemen must do:

"If the wisdom of the West about manliness contained in this anthology could be summed up in two words, they would be: **Love perfects**. It is this very idea that is at the heart of the traditions that have shaped our civilization—and that has well-nigh been lost in the changes our society has seen in the last century. If contemporary man is to regain his sense of purpose, of nobility, of his place in the world, he cannot do better than to look to the past, and to take to heart its lesson about virtue, manliness, and—above all— **love**."

The next time we forget manliness and gentleness, let's do something about it. Let's put "gentle" back into the word: gentleman.

Please mark this down on your calendar that on Friday, February 13, the National Fatherhood Initiative will be having a march on that date. The NFI's mission is to improve the well-being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with an involved, responsible, and committed father and/or male guardian.

Its strategies are to educate and inspire all fathers and/or male guardians; to equip and engage all fathers and key players on the vital role of fatherhood towards building caring and strong families. Call 664-3751 or 664-2552/8657 for details.

Remember:

"The best gift a father can give to his children is to love their mother. And the best gift the mother can give to her children is to love their father."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

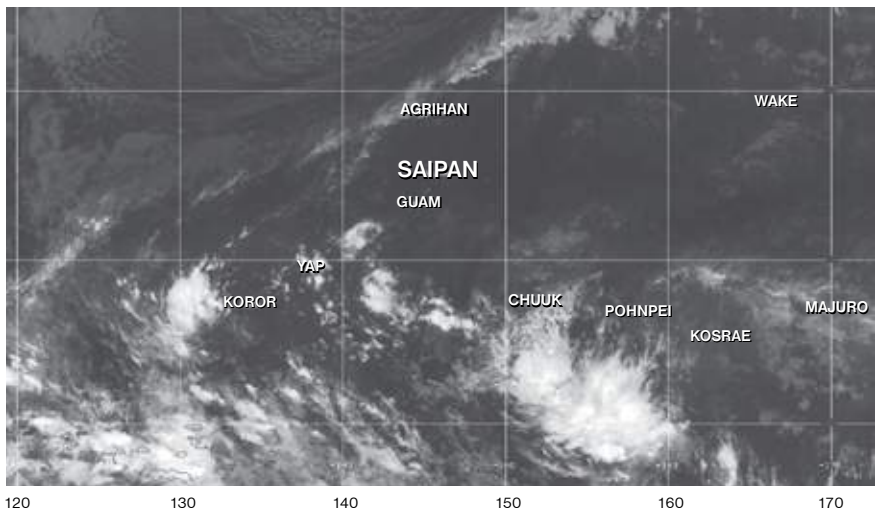
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼75
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲47	▼26
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲73	▼62
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼68
London	Snow	▲39	▼34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼50
Manila	Cloudy	▲86	▼72
Melbourne	Thundershowers	▲94	▼77
Miami	Cloudy	▲78	▼58
New York	Cloudy	▲45	▼38
Osaka	Cloudy	▲43	▼34
Paris	Cloudy	▲32	▼26
Pusan	Cloudy	▲52	▼39
Rome	Rain	▲45	▼32
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼31
San Francisco	Sunny	▲62	▼47
Seoul	Showers	▲45	▼28
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼32
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, FEB. 1, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An old shear line enters the discussion area at 25N178E and extends west-southwestward to end near Wake Island at 20N165E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 200 miles north of this feature. A cold front enters the discussion area west of Minami Tori Shima at 25N145E and stretches southwestward to west of the CNMI at 18N141E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A low-level trough runs northward from 3N137E to 11N135E aided by favorable upper-level dynamics. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring over Koror and Yap within 105 miles of a line from 7N130E to 10N145E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with moist upper-level flow to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk within 75 miles of a line from 7N147E to 2N150E and south of Pohnpei south of a line from 3N151E to 6N157E to 3N162E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands including Kwajalein and Majuro between 3N and 10N from 167E to 180. Scattered showers are found west of the disturbance over Kosrae within 130 miles of a line from EQ166E to 7N162E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:06 AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
5:41 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
11:50 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:10 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:59 AM	
Tuesday	11:46 AM	12:02 AM
Wednesday	12:39 PM	1:07 AM
Thursday	1:38 PM	2:10 AM
Friday	2:42 PM	3:15 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Stimulus plan mixes long and short term job goals

WASHINGTON (AP)—No matter the color of your work shirt, this recession is sparing few.

From blue collar construction workers to white collar financial sector employees, the economic crisis has dragged a growing swath of American workers into joblessness.

Economic downturns predominantly used to hit blue-collar and young workers. But in this recession, layoffs and business closings are affecting bankers, middle managers, even scientists and journalists.

White collar unemployment jumped 1.6 percentage points—to 4.6 percent—from December of 2007 to December of 2008. But blue-collar workers are still bearing the largest brunt of unemployment, at 11.3 percent.

The shared pain helps explain the varied priorities in the $800 billion-plus rescue package put together by President Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress. The $50 billion for building roads, bridges and schools addressed the hardest hit of the unemployed first—hardhat workers.

But there are also piles of wage-producing money for college-educated workers: $62 billion in the House version for health information and renewable energy technology, improving the nation's power grid and scientific research. Getting it all to them will take longer.

Policymakers are also counting on greater public acceptance for social spending—on the likes of food stamps, unemployment and health insurance—because the victims of the collapse in housing and credit markets cross socio-economic levels.

"The intensity of where we are right now creates a much larger scale of interest by the public," said Lawrence Mishel, president of the liberal Economic Policy Institute. "You need many more sectors to recover and broad-based policies for that are a new challenge."

Republicans complain that too much is being directed to expanding the safety net for assisting victims and argue that tax cuts, particularly those addressed at businesses, will produce more sustainable jobs over the long term.

The one thing both sides agree on is that more jobs are paramount. A Pew Research Center poll shows 76 percent of Democrats and 72 percent of Republicans now rate jobs as the nation's top priority.

The White House economic team, in an analysis this month, concluded the spending would directly create nearly 1.5 million jobs by the end of the fourth quarter of 2010. It also determined the indirect effects—the pass-along benefits of newly employed workers spending more—would create more than 2.2 million jobs.

Included are 305,000 in direct energy jobs and 166,000 in direct health care jobs. Those jobs would, in turn, indirectly produce another 230,000 jobs, according to the analysis.

Obama readies road map for new bailout spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Saturday promised to lower mortgage costs, offer job-creating loans for small businesses, get credit flowing and rein in free-spending executives as he readies a new road map for spending billions from the second installment of the financial rescue plan.

Obama

The White House is deciding how to structure the remaining half of the $700 billion that Congress approved last year to save financial institutions and lenders. An announcement was possible as early as this coming week on an approach that would use a range of tools to unfreeze credit, helping families and businesses.

At the end of a week that saw hundreds of thousands of people lose their jobs, Obama also used his Saturday radio and Internet address to tell that nation that "no one bill, no matter how comprehensive, can cure what ails our economy."

During the final three months of 2008, the economy recorded its worst downhill slide in a quarter-century, stumbling backward at a 3.8 percent pace, the government reported Friday. It could get worse.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is trying to finish a plan to overhaul the bailout program begun in the Bush administration. Geithner has said the administration is considering using a government-run "bad bank" to buy up financial institutions' bad assets. But some officials now say that option is gone because of potential costs.

Google users get bogus warning on site searches

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Computer users doing Google searches during a nearly one-hour period Saturday morning were greeted with disturbing but erroneous messages that every site turned up in the results might be harmful.

The company blamed the mistake on human error and apologized for any inconvenience caused to users and site owners whose pages were incorrectly labeled.

The glitch occurred between 9:30 a.m. EST and 10:25 a.m. EST, Google Inc. said in an explanation on its company blog. Anyone who did a Google search during that time likely saw the message "This site may harm your computer" accompanying every search result, the company said.

Google said it routinely flags any search results with that message if the site is known to install malicious software in the background or otherwise surreptitiously, a practice aimed at protecting its users. Google said it maintains a list of suspicious sites based on criteria developed with StopBadware.org, a nonprofit project headed by legal scholars at Harvard and Oxford universities who research consumer complaints.

Saturday's error happened when Google erroneously applied one of its periodic list updates in such a way that the warning would apply to all URLs, the company said in a statement.

The glitch was caught by on-call staff and the file was quickly fixed, Google said. Since the updates are applied in a staggered and rolling fashion, the errors began appearing at 9:27 a.m. EST and disappeared no later than 10:25 a.m. EST, with the duration for any particular user approximately 40 minutes, it said.

"We will carefully investigate this incident and put more robust file checks in to prevent it from happening again," said Marissa Mayer, vice president of search products and user experience, in the statement.

Shell
V-Power
Developed with
Fly to the Grand Prix!
Win a trip for two to the Formula One Grand Prix in Fuji, Japan! With every $20 cash purchase of Shell fuel, receive an entry form for a chance to win. Redeem your Lucky 7 Passport and receive an additional entry form.
Other Prizes include:
One round trip ticket via Northwest Airlines® to select Formula One Grand Prix locations including Malaysia, Singapore, Japan and Shanghai
(5) $200 Shell V-Power® Premium Gasoline totaling $1000
(2) $300 payment for 6 months on an auto-related bill:
• Auto Loan • Auto Insurance payments • Auto Customizing
Get Lucky 7 Double Stamps with every Shell V-Power purchase.
*Rules and conditions apply. See store for details.
made to move
nwa WorldPerks.

Nation

KY deploys full Army Nat'l Guard for storm cleanup

MAYFIELD, Ky. (AP)—Gov. Steve Beshear deployed every last one of his Army National Guardsmen on Saturday, with his state still reeling after a deadly ice storm encrusted it this week.

More than half a million homes and businesses, most of them in Kentucky, remained without electricity from the Ozarks through Appalachia, though temperatures creeping into the 40s helped a swarm of utility workers make headway. Finding fuel—heating oil along with gas for cars and generators—was another struggle for those trying to tough it out at home, with hospitals and other essential services getting priority over members of the public.

The addition of 3,000 soldiers and airmen makes 4,600 Guardsmen pressed into service. It's the largest call-up in Kentucky history, which Beshear called an appropriate response to a storm that cut power to more than 700,000 homes and businesses, the state's largest outage on record. Many people in rural areas cannot get out of their driveways due to debris and have no phone service, the governor said.

AP

Crews work to clear storm debris from the streets Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, in Mayfield, Ky.

"With the length of this disaster and what we're expecting to be a multi-day process here, we're concerned about the lives and the safety of our people in their own homes," Beshear said, "and we need the manpower in some of the rural areas to go door-to-door and do a door-to-door canvass ... and make sure they're OK."

Staff Sgt. Erick Duncan of Murray said he and his colleagues have been putting in long shifts to open tree-littered roads. Duncan, who manned a chain saw, said he expects the assignment to last quite a while.

"It's a mess and we're just in the city limits," he said. "We're not even out in the county yet. And there's plenty of cities and counties to go to."

Thousands of people were staying in motels and shelters, asked to leave their homes by authorities who said emergency teams in some areas were too strapped to reach everyone in need of food, water and warmth. The outages disabled water systems, and authorities warned it could be days or weeks before power was restored in the most remote spots.

Official: GOP senator tops list for commerce post

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama appeared Saturday to be leaning toward appointing a third Republican to his Cabinet, a move that would place the fiscally conservative Sen. Judd Gregg at the head of the Commerce Department even though a liberal Democrat was initially tapped for the post.

The appointment of the New Hampshire Republican—his family has close ties to the family of former President George W. Bush—also could bring the Senate closer to the 60-vote majority Democrats need to thwart Republicans seeking to filibuster legislation. However, there was no guarantee that New Hampshire's independent-minded governor would replace Gregg with a Democrat.

Republicans privately hoped Gregg would negotiate a deal that would allow the GOP keep the seat. Some suggested party elders Warren Rudman or Walter Peterson while others pointed to Doug Scamman, a former speaker of the New Hampshire House and one of Gov. John Lynch's Republican allies.

Gregg is the leading candidate to become commerce secretary, an Obama administration official said Saturday. A decision could come as soon as Monday, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to discuss administration deliberations.

GOP governors press Congress to pass stimulus bill

NEW YORK (AP)—Most Republican governors have broken with their GOP colleagues in Congress and are pushing for passage of President Barack Obama's economic aid plan that would send billions to states for education, public works and health care.

Their state treasuries drained by the financial crisis, governors would welcome the money from Capitol Hill, where GOP lawmakers are more skeptical of Obama's spending priorities.

The 2008 GOP vice presidential nominee, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, planned to meet in Washington this weekend with Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and other senators to press for her state's share of the package.

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist worked the phones last week with members of his state's congressional delegation, including House Republicans. Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas, the Republican vice chairman of the National Governors Association, planned to be in Washington on Monday to urge the Senate to approve the plan.

"As the executive of a state experiencing budget challenges, Gov. Douglas has a different perspective on the situation than congressional Republicans," said Douglas' deputy chief of staff, Dennise Casey.

Not a single Republican voted with the majority last week when the House approved Obama's $819 billion combination of tax cuts and new spending. The president's goal is to create or preserve 3 million to 4 million jobs.

Tragedy leaves a community searching for answers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Before the unspeakable horror that struck the tan stucco house on McFarland Avenue, the blue-collar folks who labor and live in the community called Wilmington had suffered their fair share—not unlike other Americans.

Homes in foreclosure. Refinery workers mulling a strike. Cutbacks at the nearby Port of Los Angeles, where some longshoremen haven't found employment in months. A drive past the taquerias and body shops, past a beauty parlor tagged with graffiti, finds a man pushing a shopping cart, stopping to dig through a stranger's trash can.

The people of Wilmington know what it means to feel fed up and stretched thin, to survive on one income or none at all, to struggle to afford basics and leave a grocery store "still feeling miserable," as one man said.

Perhaps this explains why, when tragedy came to their community, that street and that house, they responded with outrage, anguish and grief. Whether or not the slaughter on McFarland Avenue can be truly blamed on America's economic crisis, Ervin Lupoe's neighbors felt a kinship with a man who claimed that desperate times had driven him to commit the ultimate evil.

The story spread quickly across California and beyond: A man, fired from his job, shot and killed his wife, 8-year-old daughter and two sets of twins, 2-year-old boys and 5-year-old girls, before turning the gun on himself.

Both Lupoe, 40, and his wife, Ana, 38, had been fired recently from their jobs as hospital technicians at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center West Los Angeles. Police say they had lied about their income to try to get cheaper child care.

Other financial pressures were mounting, too: Lupoe owed the Internal Revenue Service at least $15,000 and a check to the agency had bounced; he was a month behind on his mortgage and owed $2,500, a late fee, plus thousands more on a home equity line of credit.

ACROSS THE NATION

NJ dad who named kids after Nazis decries removal

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—The father of three children who have names associated with Nazis is accusing the state Division of Youth and Family Services of taking his children under false pretenses and says one of the kids appeared neglected when he saw them last week. Heath Campbell told The Associated Press on Saturday that he and his wife, Deborah, have been allowed to see their children once since state child welfare workers removed them from the family's home on Jan. 9. Campbell said his 2-year-old daughter, JoyceLynn Aryan Nation Campbell, appeared sick and had a runny nose and dirty diaper when he and his wife visited the children last week under the supervision of state social workers. DYFS has not said why JoyceLynn and siblings Adolf Hitler Campbell, 3, and Honszlynn Hinler Jeannie Campbell, who will be 1 in April, were removed. Kate Bernyk, a DYFS spokeswoman, said Saturday that confidentiality laws prevent the agency from commenting on specific cases.

Grandma: Octuplets mom obsessed with having kids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The woman who gave birth to octuplets this week conceived all 14 of her children through in vitro fertilization, is not married and has been obsessed with having children since she was a teenager, her mother said. Angela Suleman told The Associated Press she was not supportive when her daughter, Nadya Suleman, decided to have more embryos implanted last year. "It can't go on any longer," she said in a phone interview Friday. "She's got six children and no husband. I was brought up the traditional way. I firmly believe in marriage. But she didn't want to get married." Nadya Suleman, 33, gave birth Monday in nearby Bellflower. She was expected to remain in the hospital for at least a few more days, and her newborns for at least a month. A spokeswoman at Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center said the babies were were progressing daily, with all eight breathing unassisted and being tube-fed.

Bus crash near Hoover Dam kills 7 Chinese tourists

DOLAN SPRINGS, Ariz. (AP)—Investigators looking into a deadly tour bus crash on a highway near the Hoover Dam said Saturday that it may take up to a month to figure out why the vehicle overturned, killing seven passengers and injuring 10 others. Arizona Department of Public Safety Sgt. Danny Hannigan said the National Transportation Safety Board was assisting in the probe of Friday's crash. The bus had been taken to Kingman where investigators will scour it over the next week, department spokesman Lt. James Warriner said. Six people were pronounced dead at the scene and a seventh died at a hospital, said Cmdr. Dean Nyhart of the public safety department. The driver was among those in serious condition, he said.

Plane struggled to keep course, reported low fuel

KENOVA, W.Va. (AP)—Federal officials said Saturday a small plane struggled to stay on course in snowy weather and its pilot reported being low on fuel before it crashed in West Virginia, killing all six on board. The twin-engine Piper PA-34's pilot issued a mayday call on the radio Friday afternoon reporting it was low on fuel shortly before witnesses said it struck a power line and crashed in a wooded area near the Ohio and Kentucky state lines. The plane was destroyed, National Transportation Safety Board investigator Brian Rayner said. The engines were separated from the wings, which were broken in several places. The cockpit area was severely deformed and a cable was entangled in the wreckage. Investigators have not identified any of the plane's occupants, nor determined the flight's origin or destination. Rayner said only that the plane's intended destination was not the nearby Tri-State Airport in Kenova, where it was trying to land.

Asia

Afghans threaten US troops over civilian deaths

MEHTERLAM, Afghanistan (AP)—An angry Afghan man with a thick black beard ranted wildly at the U.S. officials, shouting about how their overnight raid had killed 16 civilians in his village. An Afghan elder cried out in grief that his son and four grandsons were among the dead.

One after another, a long line of government officials, villagers and community leaders told American military officials at the Laghman governor's compound that Afghan soldiers must be allowed to take part in such raids. Several predicted increased violence against U.S. forces if more nighttime operations take place.

Three recent U.S. Special Forces operations killed 50 people—the vast majority civilians, Afghan officials say—raising the ire of villagers and President Hamid Karzai, who set a one-month deadline for his demand that Afghan soldiers play a bigger role in military operations.

"If these operations are again conducted in our area, all of our people are ready to carry out jihad. We cannot tolerate seeing the dead bodies of our children and women anymore," Malik Malekazratullah, the Afghan who ranted at the Americans, told The Associated Press. "I've already told President Karzai we are out of patience."

U.S. officials said it was possible the conventional American troops stationed in Laghman province—a separate group from the Special Forces units that carried out the nighttime raids—could face an increased risk of attack.

"Anytime there is that kind of public outcry, you can imagine that there are some people out there who may take that and put it into action," said Lt. Col. Dan Fuhr, the top U.S. commander in Laghman, one province east of Kabul.

The overnight raids target what U.S. officials say are known insurgent leaders. The specially trained Special Forces are dropped off outside a village by helicopter, then move in to capture or kill their targets.

The problem, Afghan officials say, comes when ordinary civilians hear the commotion. Fearing robbers or an attack from a hostile tribe, the close-knit villagers grab their guns and run outside or fire from their homes. U.S. forces then fire back and end up killing civilians doing nothing more than answering the call to defend their neighbors.

Health officials: 4 more Filipinos had Ebola Reston virus

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Health officials announced Friday they have confirmed four more Filipinos contracted the *Ebola Reston virus,* a finding that increases the likelihood that pig-to-human transmission took place. The latest cases bring to five the number of humans who have caught the virus, after a hog raiser from a northern Manila suburb tested positive for the Ebola Reston antibody, Philippine Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said.

An initial report said that none of the five men wore protective clothing and all had direct contact with sick pigs, according to Duque. Though all were exposed to the virus, none has gotten sick in the last 12 months, he added.

The rare virus—first discovered among monkeys south of Manila in 1989—has not been known to cause serious illness among humans. At least 25 people in the Philippines have been infected with the virus by monkeys, but only one exhibited mild flu-like symptoms.

Three of the Ebola virus' five subtypes are associated with deadly hemorrhagic fever in humans; two other subtypes, including the Reston, are not, according to the World Health Organization.

WHO's Dr. Julie Hall said the five cases in the Philippines "increases the likelihood" of pig-to-human transmission of the virus, but investigators were not yet certain. She said all five are now virus-free.

"They are not infectious to others, they therefore do not need to be quarantined," she said.

While the virus appears to pose low risks to humans, Hall said the government must implement strict measures such as hygenic handling of animals and food, efficient reporting of sick or dying pigs and prevention of the sale of illegally slaughtered meat to keep the virus from spreading among people and swine.

The discovery of the virus in pigs in October marked the first time the virus has been found outside of monkeys, and is of particular concern because it was found in a food-producing animal.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Farmer in central China sick with bird flu

BEIJING (AP)—A 21-year-old woman in central China has been sickened with the H5N1 strain of bird flu in the country's eight reported case of the disease this year, the Health Ministry said. The woman, a farmer surnamed Shu in the central province of Hunan, fell ill Jan. 23 after handling poultry that had died from disease, the ministry said on its Web site late Saturday without giving more details. She was hospitalized three days later and was in stable condition and recovering, it said. People who had close contact with Shu were under medical observation but none have showed symptoms of illness so far, the ministry said. China has reported seven other cases of H5N1 since January, five of which were fatal.

5 newborns killed in hospital fire in north India

CHANDIGARH, India (AP)—Five newborns, all less than a week old, were killed and another was injured Saturday in northern India after a short circuit sparked a fire in the hospital maternity ward where they were being treated for jaundice. The blaze began before dawn at the state-run Rajendra hospital in the city of Patiala, apparently after a machine that helps treat jaundiced babies by exposing them to a special light malfunctioned, said police officer Pritpal Singh. Five other newborns were rescued, including one that suffered burns. All the babies were under a week old and receiving treatment under the phototherapy machine. "There was a short circuit in the tubes of the machines," hospital superintendent Surinder Singh told a local television station. "The staff reacted immediately, but unfortunately five babies could not be saved." Television footage showed several weeping relatives outside the hospital, including some of the mothers who had been in nearby rooms at the time of the fire.

15 dead, 20 injured in bar fire in southern China

BEIJING (AP)—Revelers celebrating a birthday set off fireworks inside a bar in southern China, triggering a blaze that killed 15 people and injured 20, state media said. The fire in Changle, a city in the southern province of Fujian, started just before midnight on Saturday, when 10 people lit the fireworks at their table, the Xinhua News Agency said. Fireworks are sold and set off everywhere during Lunar New Year festivities, which lasted all week and ended Saturday. Also known as Spring Festival, it is the country's biggest holiday.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-MOS-038
(1/26/09)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2009 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUGAR KING ESTATE CONCESSIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON **FEBRUARY 13, 2009**, AT **9:30 A.M. AT THE SUGAR KING ESTATE IN GARAPAN, SAIPAN.**

ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AND HAND DELIVERED TO **MS. BERNIE ITIBUS** AT THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, AT AFETNAS SQUARE IN SAN ANTONIO NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON ON **FEBRUARY 16, 2009.**

/s/ JUAN B. TUDELA
MAYOR OF SAIPAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PAROLE
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES

Date Submitted: **January 29, 2009**
Date the announcement is to go on the **NEWS:** From: **02/02/09 & 02/16/09**
How many Times to go on the **News:** **Two Time: 02/02/09 & 02/16/09**

MESSAGE: Governor Benigno R. Fitial an Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a Parole Hearing is scheduled for **February 18, 2009, (Wednesday)** beginning at **9:00 a.m., and if need be, to continue on February 19, 2009, (Thursday) at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections Briefing/Training Room**, Susupe, Saipan. The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Parole Hearing Minutes - May 21, 2009

III. Parole Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Alex Alfonso Augustine	07-019	06-0239B
2. Benjamin John John	08-008	07-0071(E)
3. Wang Tao	08-009	06-0196B
4. Joseph Acosta Crisostomo	08-012	07-147C
5. Raymond Basa Blas	08-014	04-809
6. David Manglona Atalig	08-015	06-0098E

IV. Re-Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Joaquin S. Peredo	08-RA-005	04-181C

V. Miscellaneous
Parole Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramond B. Camacho January 14, 2009
Chairman, Board of Parole

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

Invitation for Bid
NMC No.: IFB 09-008
CREES TINIAN FENCE LINE PROJECT

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Services Department (CREES) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and installation of Chain Link Fence and Gates for CREES Tinian Facility due on or before February 06th, 2009. In order to be considered for this transaction, all persons, firms or corporations responding to this request must provide information requested in the specifications and scope of work. **Any bid received that does not provide the requested information may be rejected**. Bids rejected will not be returned to the owner, but the owner will be notified.

DUE DATE/TIME: Friday, February 06th, 2009 10:00 a.m.
PUBLIC BID OPENING: Wednesday, February 11th, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

Specifications and Scope of Work may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Bid Packages are due February 06th, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with NMC Procurement Regulations. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **"Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement. This procurement is funded, wholly, from federal sources. For bidders located outside of the CNMI**: You may request a copy of the Invitation for Bid via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita C. Camacho (acamacho@nmcnet.edu)

All bidders are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College and CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

Anita C. Camacho
NMC, Procurement Manager

Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff, vs. **RENATO G. AZUCENAS, JORGE M. MANALILI, DIONISIO P. GAMBOA, and EMON LODGE NO. 179,** Defendants.	**Civil Action No. 01-0363B** **AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION FOR CITY TRUST BANK SHARES**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby gives notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendant Renato G. Azucenas's City Trust Bank stock shares, in the following 215,644 shares of common stock in City Trust Bank, Inc., will be sold at an auction sale:

City Trust Bank, Inc Share Certificate #23;
City Trust Bank, Inc Share Certificate #28;
City Trust Bank, Inc Share Certificate #46;
City Trust Bank, Inc Share Certificate #52;
and
City Trust Bank, Inc Share Certificate #57

Notice is hereby given that the 215,644 shares to be sold at auction may be sold in accordance with the numbers of shares represented by each individual share certificate, or may be sold in smaller blocks of shares at CDA's discretion.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, February 27, 2009,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. NO MINIMUM BID.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of CDA as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, CDA shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a.) To withdraw the shares listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such shares is accepted.
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific shares are struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the shares listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Officer-In-Charge, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 234-7144; or to Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned shares shall revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. CDA reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Banking Licensing Requirements. Bidders should be advised that the total interest in City Trust Bank represented by the shares to be auctioned may represent five percent (5%) or more of the total shares in City Trust Bank. Purchase by any one bidder of an amount of shares equal to or exceeding five percent (5%) of the shares in City Trust Bank may subject such buyer and City Trust Bank to the requirements of 4 CMC §6226(e).
8. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the shares. Please contact CDA if you desire to schedule a viewing or inspection of the documents possessed by CDA. The interests in the shares are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the shares or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 20th day of January, 2009.

/S/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

World

Iraqi elections avoid violence but complaints loom

BAGHDAD (AP)—Passing through razor-wire cordons and police checkpoints, Iraqi voters Saturday took another step in the nation's quest for stability in provincial elections that were carried off without major violence but tarnished by claims of flaws and threats of challenges.

Even before a single ballot was counted, Iraqi officials were basking in the successes—watching millions of voters wave the purple-tinted fingers that have become symbols of the country's hopes for a workable democracy.

President Barack Obama hailed the elections as significant, peaceful and important steps toward Iraqis taking responsibility for their future.

But election observers and others were examining a growing list of complaints, including claims that hundreds of people—perhaps more—were wrongly omitted from voting lists in areas across Iraq.

"There was huge amount of confusion," said Afram Yakoub, a Belgium-based election monitor who visited polling sites in the Mosul area in northern Iraq. "Names were on the center voter registry but did not appear on the (polling) station registry."

The leader of the second largest Sunni bloc in parliament, Saleh al-Mutlaq, accused the Shiite-led government of a deliberate campaign to keep the minority Sunnis "on the sidelines."

It was unclear whether the alleged problems were isolated or could cast doubts on the entire election.

But any political bitterness could further complicate another difficult task ahead for Iraq's leaders: getting hundreds of factions to accept the results as credible and then start hammering out alliances from among 14,000 candidates for the influential regional posts.

The overall picture, however, was close to the goals set by Iraqi officials desperate to portray a sense of order and confidence nearly six years after the U.S.-led invasion.

A vast security operation faced no major confrontations or attacks. Meanwhile, Sunni groups—that boycotted provincial balloting four years ago—were deeply involved in this election, anxious to claim a share of power they had given away to Shiites and Kurds.

AP

An Iraqi girl holds up an ink-stained finger after her parents voted in the country's provincial elections in the Shiite holy city of Karbala, Iraq, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009.

Priest uncovering beginnings of Final Solution

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—The Holocaust has a landscape engraved in the mind's eye: barbed-wire fences, gas chambers, furnaces.

Less known is the "Holocaust by Bullets," in which over 2 million Jews were gunned down in towns and villages across Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Their part in the Nazis' Final Solution has been under-researched, their bodies left unidentified in unmarked mass graves.

"Shoah," French filmmaker Claude Lanzmann's documentary, stands as the 20th century's epic visual record of the Holocaust. Now another Frenchman, a Catholic priest named Patrick Desbois, is filling in a different part of the picture.

Desbois says he has interviewed more than 800 eyewitnesses and pinpointed hundreds of mass graves strewn around dusty fields in the former Soviet Union. The result is a book, "The Holocaust by Bullets," and an exhibition through March 15 at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage.

Brought to Ukraine by a twist of fate, Desbois has spent seven years trying to document the truth, honor the dead, relieve witnesses of their pain and guilt and prevent future acts of genocide.

Some 1.4 million of Soviet Ukraine's 2.4 million Jews were executed, starved to death or died of disease during the war. Another 550,000-650,000 Soviet Jews were killed in Belarus and up to 140,000 in Russia, according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Most of the victims were women, children and the elderly.

Gaza militants fire rocket into Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinian militants fired a rocket from Gaza on Saturday that exploded close to the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon without causing any damages or injuries, an Israeli military spokesman said.

Israeli forces and Gaza militants are supposed to refrain from attacking each other under a fragile cease-fire. The truce has been breached several times, making diplomatic efforts to build a lasting agreement difficult.

The rocket attack was the first from Gaza since Thursday, said the Israeli military spokesman, who declined to be identified under army regulations. There was no claim of responsibility from any Palestinian militant group.

■ ■ ■

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The biggest gains in the Gaza war have gone to the hard-liners on both sides. Hamas is declaring victory, while Israel's leading hawk is the front-runner in elections just over a week away.

But a new phase in peace efforts has opened with Barack Obama's election as U.S. president and the international community may find itself offering Hamas incentives to moderate rather than shunning it.

Hamas is exulting in the widespread support it received in the Muslim world and many Western countries. Israeli public opinion has emerged tougher and more inclined to choose Benjamin Netanyahu over the more dovish candidates.

Israeli strategists say the offensive, mounted to halt rocket fire on Israeli settlements and cut the flow of arms to Hamas, has dealt the militants a heavy blow. But it has not yet led to a permanent arrangement that would stop Hamas weapons smuggling and rocket attacks, and fighting could erupt again at any moment.

■ ■ ■

Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers stopped fighting in late January after a fierce three-week Israeli offensive meant to halt eight years of near-daily rocket fire from Gaza at southern Israel.

Russian newspaper mourns another murdered reporter

MOSCOW (AP)—The dead loom over the morning editorial meeting at Russia's leading investigative newspaper. Novaya Gazeta's staff is trying to plan the next issue and editor-in-chief Dmitry Muratov is in an understandably foul mood.

In a corner hang photos of four reporters he has lost in the past eight years—one beaten to death, one allegedly poisoned, two shot—the most recent on Jan. 19.

It's not easy to put a paper out these days, Muratov says.

"There's usually a lot of jokes, laughing, talk about ideas. But our batteries are totally spent," says Muratov, 47, billows of pipe smoke filling the long pauses. "How can there be any sort of (normal) frame of mind when a journalist is being buried?"

That journalist was Anastasia Baburova, a 25-year-old cub reporter. She and a human rights lawyer were shot execution-style by a masked man with a silenced pistol as they walked together a few blocks from the Kremlin.

In a country considered one of the most dangerous for journalists, no Russian newspaper has suffered like Novaya Gazeta. In a country where most media have been cowed into submission, no other newspaper publishes such probing investigative articles and acid commentary about government corruption, police-state politics and Chechnya war abuses.

"Every two or three years, we lose someone," says Elena Kostyuchenko, a 21-year-old investigative writer for the paper. "But you just have to write, write, write and keep writing. You have to."

Some 16 journalists have died in contract-style slayings or under suspicious circumstances in Russia since 2000. Many more have been assaulted or threatened.

WORLD BRIEFS

At Davos forum, leaders urge continued free trade

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—Global leaders had a simple message for the world on Saturday: Keep trading. If nations instead choose to barricade their economies behind new commercial barriers, they risk making the global economic crisis even worse, leaders said. "Trade is the best economic stimulus," said Doris Leuthard, the Swiss economics minister who hosted trade chiefs from the world's most powerful countries on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. Their talks, however, offered no renewed hopes for a long-awaited deal in the Doha round of trade talks that many see as a necessary bulwark against the threat of economic protectionism, which devastated the world during the Great Depression. The meeting did not produce a timeframe for action in the Doha talks, now in their eighth year with no completion in sight.

Somalia's new moderate Islamist president sworn in

DJIBOUTI (AP)—A moderate Islamist leader was sworn in as the country's new president Saturday after parliament elected him to stabilize a country wracked by violence and anarchy for nearly 20 years. Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed was elected in neighboring Djibouti early Saturday after the last president—a former soldier, rebel and warlord named Abdullahi Yusuf—resigned in December after failing to pacify the country during his four-years as president. More than 1,200 people, including the new Somali parliament, attended Saturday's swearing-in at a hotel in Djibouti. Ahmed was chairman of the Islamic Courts Union that ran Mogadishu for six months in 2006 before Ethiopian soldiers drove them from power. His election raises hopes that he will bring many of Somalia's Islamic factions into a more inclusive government. But the Western-backed government wields little control in Somalia - just a few blocks of the capital, Mogadishu, where African Union peacekeepers patrol. An Islamic insurgent group called al-Shabab, who say they don't recognize the government, have taken over most of Somalia.

Obama's Kenyan relative arrested on drug charge

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The half-brother of President Barack Obama was arrested for alleged possession of marijuana on Saturday near his home in a Nairobi shantytown, police said. George Obama, who is in his 20s and barely knows the president, had one joint of marijuana on him, said Joshua Omokulongolo, the police chief in the area. "He is not a drug peddler," Omokulongolo told The Associated Press. "But it's illegal, it's a banned substance." George Obama has a court appearance scheduled Monday morning. He and the president have the same father, who died in a car crash in 1982. The White House declined comment Saturday on the president's half-brother. Several of President Obama's Kenyan relatives went to Washington, D.C., for his inauguration, but George was not among them. He lives in Huruma with extended family.

Health & Fitness

Plunge into a swimming routine

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Many adults know how to swim—that is, they can get from one end of the pool to the other without too much trouble. But to swim proficiently and with finesse, they must learn to properly stroke, kick and breathe.

That's where swim coach Nancy Kirkpatrick-Reno comes in. Head masters coach at Conejo Simi Aquatic Masters in the Los Angeles area and a former masters swimming world champion, Kirkpatrick-Reno has designed a four-week program to quickly improve swimming skills and overall fitness—with drills and pointers on technique. If you're stuck in a swimming rut using methods you learned in elementary school, pay attention. "In the last 20 years, the way we swim has become very different," Kirkpatrick-Reno says, "not to mention the new swimsuits that have taken swimming to whole other levels."

This workout begins with choosing the right size pool and ends with doing copious laps without gasping for air.

For information on masters swimming programs, go to U.S. Masters Swimming (www.usms.org).

LOS ANGELES TIMES

"In the last 20 years, the way we swim has become very different," says Nancy Kirkpatrick-Reno, head masters coach at Conejo Simi Aquatic Masters.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Masters swimmer Lauren Hancock shows good, straight form during practice.

Getting Started

Before sticking a toe in the water, consider this advice:

■ Swim in a pool that's at least 20 to 25 yards long; those pools can usually be found at high schools and some gyms. A 50-meter Olympic-size pool is best, but not everyone has access to that. "If you're going to become a lap swimmer," Kirkpatrick-Reno says, "you can't go any shorter or you'll be constantly turning." An outdoor pool is preferable to an indoor one because the chlorine and other chemicals dissipate in the air.

■ Choose a pool with a pace clock, or get a waterproof swim watch. "It will help you measure how fast you're swimming," Kirkpatrick-Reno says. "If you have no clock, how do you know you're improving?"

■ Not all swimsuits are created equal. Racing suits are best, because they cling to the body and cut down on drag, which can slow a swimmer. Men should ditch the loose-fitting trunks or jams—those, Kirkpatrick-Reno says, "are like taking grocery bags and tying them to your waist"—and choose a more tight-fitting suit. Don't worry, tiny suits aren't the only option; snug swim jammers come almost to the knee (think triathlete gear). Women should choose a sleek racing suit as well; some two-piece options are available. Keep in mind that chlorine may eventually break down the fibers, so wash according to manufacturer's instructions.

■ Swim caps can cut down on drag, especially for people with long hair. They can also protect hair from pool chemicals. Goggles are essential to protect eyes from the same chemicals, and they're available with prescription lenses and tinting and UV protection for the outdoors.

■ A couple pieces of gear are used during drills: Kickboards can help swimmers focus on kicking properly. And pull buoys (lightweight foam pieces that sit between the thighs, keeping the legs still) make swimmers use more upper-body muscles.

■ Keep a log to track progress in speed and distance, and note what times of day are best to work out.

■ Stay hydrated. Even though you're in a body of water, you will perspire. Kirkpatrick-Reno suggests keeping water or a sports drink by the side of the pool and taking a few sips during rests.

■ Don't forget to eat after a workout. Swimmers need to replace glycogen levels after exercising, and Kirkpatrick-Reno suggests some combination of carbohydrates and protein, such as a protein bar or chocolate milk.

■ Do some cool-down laps after a workout. A few laps at a leisurely pace will help slow the heart rate and cool the body's core temperature.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Lauren Hancock, a swimmer with the Conejo Simi Aquatic Masters program, demonstrates the proper streamline form: hands in front of head, one over the other, upper arms tucked next to the ears.

Week 1

Work out three times a week on nonconsecutive days. Don't be surprised if you're winded after just a few laps in the beginning, even if you're an accomplished runner or cyclist. Swimming uses different muscles and structured breathing and may be taxing at first. But with perseverance, quick improvement is possible. The number of laps listed here is a suggestion based on a 25-yard pool, so adjust the number if necessary.

■ Drills begin with streamlining off the wall. Begin with feet against the wall, and drop just under the surface of the water. Push off the wall in a streamlined position: Hands are directly in front of head, one over the other, and upper arms are tucked next to the ears. Toes are pointed. When you begin to slow down, kick a little and come to the surface. "It's like you're an arrow cutting through the water," Kirkpatrick-Reno says. "This gets you used to the feeling of going through the water, and in swimming, you want to be streamlined. You want to get your body to a point." Stop and return to the wall, or swim the rest of the length of the pool and begin again. Repeat 10 times.

■ Next, swim using one arm across one length of the pool. Keep the left arm outstretched in front, right arm by your side, close to your hip. Eyes are facing the bottom of the pool and the legs are flutter kicking. To do that, keep heels in the water and kick from the hips, not the knees. Point the toes. Don't let the legs drag down in the water and make large kicks—this isn't like snorkeling. To stroke, lean slightly to the left, with the right shoulder back, bring the right arm up, and stroke into the water, using the arm from the fingertip to the elbow as a paddle. Use only the right arm to go across the pool, then switch to the left arm on the next lap. Repeat, changing arms each lap, for four to eight lengths. If possible, breathe every few strokes, or as often as you need to. When breathing, rotate the head out of the water to the side; don't lift it up.

■ The catch-up drill begins with the left arm in front and the right arm by your side. Bring your right arm around to meet the left, then stroke with the left arm, bringing it around to meet the right. The arms "catch up" to each other instead of continuously paddling through the water. Repeat four to eight lengths, breathing every couple of strokes if possible, or more often if necessary.

■ Flutter kick for 200 yards while holding a kickboard. Keep your hands over the far edge of the board and your head above water and do flutter kicks.

■ Do a freestyle swim for 200 yards at an 85 percent effort, using stroking, breathing and kicking techniques used in the previous drills.

Week 2

Repeat the drills from Week 1.

This week adds a kicking drill, which develops leg muscles, works on breathing and improves the cardiovascular system.

■ Begin with one arm extended in front, the other arm by your side, shoulder back. Kick six times, then bring the right arm around so that both arms are in front, kicking six times again. Next, stroke with the left arm, kicking six times, and take a breath. Breathe more frequently through the cycle if necessary. Repeat for 200 yards.

■ Next, do two 200-yard lengths of freestyle, taking a 20-second rest between sets.

■ Then do six 100-yard lengths, taking a 20-second rest between sets. Focus on your stroke technique.

Week 3

Although counting laps and focusing on proper technique can be distracting, monotony can set in. Kirkpatrick-Reno suggests combating it by talking to lane mates during rests, using a waterproof MP3 player, or letting your mind wander a bit.

■ Warm up with a combination of drills from Week 1 for 400 to 600 yards.

■ To get the heart rate up, swim six 25-yard lengths at about a 75 percent to 80 percent effort.

■ Rest for a minute and do the main swimming set, consisting of eight 75-yard lengths; in a 25-yard pool, do one lap freestyle, one backstroke or breast stroke, and one freestyle. Or, do all three laps freestyle, increasing intensity with each lap. Do the first lap at a 70 percent effort, the second at 75 percent and the third at 80 percent. Take a 15-second rest between sets. This helps build endurance and speed.

■ Swim four 100-yard lengths with the pull buoy, which isolates upper-body muscles. Try to breathe every third stroke.

Remember to do a few cool-down laps.

Week 4 and Beyond

Warm up with 400 to 600 yards of drills from Week 1, including swimming four 50-yard lengths with a 15-second rest between sets.

■ The main swimming set begins with swimming 300 yards, then 200 yards, then 100 yards, with a 20-second rest between each set. Using the pull buoy, swim 100 yards, then 200 yards, then 300 yards, again with rests between sets. This "ladder swim" builds endurance.

Cool down with some easy laps.

Although your conditioning has no doubt improved, Kirkpatrick-Reno says swimmers benefit from strength training, best done on nonswimming days. Exercises that work the thighs, shoulders, arms, core and back are especially important. Include exercises such as squats, lunges, seated rows, crunches and other abdominal work, and planks. Work on ankle flexibility, too, to make them less stiff.

After four weeks, you may need the help of a coach to perfect your technique and speed. Some workout tips and training plans can be found in books and online. Joining a masters program or a local swimming group offers instruction and opportunities to socialize with other swimmers.

Life & Style

From bands to Bruce, halftimes show Super growth

AP

In this Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009, file photo, NFL football Super Bowl XLIII halftime performer Bruce Springsteen is flanked by Max Weinberg, left, and Steven Van Zandt as he speaks at a news conference, in Tampa, Fla.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Way before Prince, Paul McCartney or the Rolling Stones ever stepped onto a Super Bowl stage, there was Shirlee Bertolini. In her donkey costume.

So much has changed since she paraded around the Los Angeles Coliseum field for that very first halftime show.

Truth is, she wouldn't mind seeing things more like they were in 1967.

"We put on a band show. A fantastic band show," she said this week by telephone from Tucson, where she's in her 54th year as the University of Arizona's twirling coach. "You want to go to a concert, go to a concert.

"Now they're going to have Bruce Springsteen. So what? You could get a marching band, and it wouldn't cost you $10 million. I'm sorry, but that's ridiculous."

Will Bertolini watch The Boss and a cast of thousands in Sunday's extravaganza?

"I might," she said. "Or maybe I'll get up and have a beer."

In all ways, the Super Bowl has morphed from a curiosity to a behemoth.

A ticket cost $6 when Bart Starr, Vince Lombardi and the Green Bay Packers beat Kansas City 35-10 in that first game. The top ticket for this weekend's matchup between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals goes for $1,000.

Now, the game is by far the biggest sporting event in America, a semi-national holiday. But back then, before the original National Football League and upstart American Football League merged, many fans weren't sure how to view it. Or watch it, really, since CBS and NBC both televised the first one.

In fact, it was officially the AFL-NFL World Championship Game in the 1960s. Commissioner Pete Rozelle preferred "The Big One" but that got nixed. The late Lamar Hunt, among the AFL's founders, suggested "Super Bowl" as a temporary fix. He got the name idea after seeing his daughter bounce a SuperBall.

The halftime shows have mirrored that growth. Even after Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A" tour in 1984 made him a stadium smash, he kept his distance from the No. 1 sports show.

"Initially, it was sort of a novelty and so it didn't quite feel right," Springsteen said this week in Tampa. "It's a great spot now."

Springsteen said he began to change his mind after a random conversation.

"I was with a young musician one night at dinner and we got to talking about Super Bowls and he said, 'Hey, why don't you play the Super Bowl?'" Springsteen said. "He said, 'Man, I hope one day we're big enough to play the Super Bowl' and I got to thinking about that."

OK, it also helped that Springsteen and his E Street Band released a new album this week.

Top entertainers now covet the 12-minute Super Bowl spot, seen by nearly 100 million viewers in the United States and a worldwide TV audience.

Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers rocked last year in Glendale, Ariz. Sting, U2, Stevie Wonder and Britney Spears are among the other stars in the last decade. Janet Jackson gave the most memorable performance—her "wardrobe malfunction" in 2004 sparked a national debate. Things were a little haywire in the first one, too.

In 1967, a Disney official asked Jack Lee, the director of the Arizona marching band and composer of the school's "Bear Down" fight song, to put together a halftime show. A salute to American music was planned, but there was one problem: Even with 250 band members, Lee needed more people.

He invited the Grambling band to join them, and that helped when it came time to form a map of America that stretched from end zone to end zone. A local high school band joined in. Lee also found a few other volunteers.

"He used everybody in our family," recalled his son, John, a future drum major in the Arizona band. "My brother, my sister and my mom. I was 8 then. I got to lead the procession to form the crack in the Liberty Bell."

All over the field, there were acts. Two astronauts wearing jet packs shot out of a giant football. Al Hirt blew his trumpet. Cowboys restaged the gunfight at the OK Corral, albeit with a little hitch.

"The gunfighters were pretending to shoot band members, rather than each other. So they were bringing out stretchers and carrying off the band members with their instruments," Lee said.

Bertolini took part in several skits. She twirled, and was part of a four-person team inside a big donkey outfit.

"Whatever Jack needed, we did," she said. College bands were a major part of the Super Bowl production during the next two decades, with marchers from Michigan, Florida A&M, Texas and Southern among those taking part. Broadway veteran Carol Channing became the first performer to headline, in 1970, at New Orleans, in a tribute to Mardi Gras.

Super Bowl ads promise glitz, guffaws, groans

AP

In this still image taken from a television ad provided by PepsiCo Inc., New England Patriots' Matt Light, center, New York Giants' Justin Tuck, left, and Baltimore Ravens' Ray Lewis appear in a commercial for SoBe Life Water which will air during Super Bowl XLIII.

By DEBORAH YAO
AP BUSINESS WRITER

It's time for that annual winter ritual where people gather before their TV screens to whoop and holler as they gobble down unhealthy treats. Yes, it's Super Bowl time. And Sunday's NFL championship wouldn't be complete without a look at its uber-expensive advertising, which is priced at an all-time high.

On Friday, NBC, a unit of General Electric Co., said it was in talks to sell the last two of the 67 spots for the game, which have gone for between $2.4 million and $3 million per 30-second slot.

"Considering the state of the economy in the United States, we couldn't be any more thrilled," said Dick Ebersol, chairman of NBC Universal Sports & Olympics.

The Super Bowl remains the premier advertising event: It boasts a U.S. audience of 100 million, the biggest of any American telecast. It's also a marketer's dream: Viewers actually like watching the commercials.

This year, a few commercials will reflect the weak economy, but by and large, the ads aim to deliver glitz, guffaws and groans—like they do every year.

There will be celebrity appearances in ads, including Conan O'Brien for Bud Light, John Turturro for Heineken USA Inc. and Jason Statham for Audi of America Inc.

Animals will figure prominently again, with Anheuser-Busch's Clydesdales expected to appear in three of seven commercials from the Budweiser brewer. One is a tearjerker about a horse that joins the circus.

Internet domain registrar The Go Daddy Group Inc., will air a somewhat risque spot, as it has done in the past. While its less-than-slick ads that the company made itself, featuring racer Danica Patrick, are bound to make viewers groan, Go Daddy doesn't care. At least Go Daddy got approved. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals got steamed because NBC rejected its ad for vegetarianism that featured half-naked women playing with vegetables.

To be sure, such tempests are part of the marketing shenanigans surrounding the game. At the very least, it drives people online to watch the banned ad.

John Gerzema, chief insights officer at Y&R, a unit of advertising giant WPP Group PLC, said keeping the brand top of mind after the Super Bowl gets advertisers the most bang for the small fortune spent to buy air time.

A 30-second Super Bowl spot is about 20 times more expensive than the average commercial time on prime time network programs this time of year, according to TNS Media.

As such, "the Super Bowl is a colossal waste of money if you can't integrate your events around it," Gerzema said. The key is to "quickly move from the TV screen to the Internet."

Anheuser-Busch gets it. It created a social media Web site at AB-extras.com that features the stories behind its Super Bowl ads with pictures, videos and interviews.

Monster Worldwide Inc., a job-search company, is linking with the NFL to hire a "Director of Fandemonium" from a base of regular fans. It has a signing bonus of $100,000 and the new hire has one year to appear in promotional events. Monster also started marketing through social networking sites and bought search engine keywords like "fandemonium" for the ad campaign. It bought two ad spots on the Super Bowl.

NBC sells out Super Bowl ads for record $206M

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—NBC said on the eve of Sunday's Super Bowl that it has sold the last two of the 69 advertising spots for the game, pushing total ad revenue for the event to a record $206 million.

The network said its total of $261 million in ad revenue for all of Super Bowl day also is a record, calling it an especially impressive feat in the middle of the economy's steep downturn.

The Super Bowl is the premier advertising event with an U.S. audience of 100 million viewers, many of whom watch closely during game breaks for the debut of entertaining, big-budget commercials. The ads have sold for between $2.4 million and $3 million per 30-second slot this year.

"These advertising milestones show the power of the NFL brand and the strength of the Super Bowl as a TV property in this economic climate," said Jeff Zucker, president and CEO of NBC Universal, a unit of General Electric Co. "The Super Bowl has become one of our country's biggest holidays, a uniquely American day, and advertisers recognized the value in being a part of it."

Thirty-two advertisers in all will showcase their products during Super Bowl coverage.

NBC said the ads featured during the game also will be available for viewing almost immediately after they air at Web sites including NBC.com, Hulu.com and Superbowl.com.

Black photographers' work featured at Smithsonian

WASHINGTON (AP)—George Scurlock Jr. remembers his grandfather—always clad in a suit and tie—meticulously posing subjects and setting lights to ensure his photographs of Washington's black community reflected its dignity and ambition.

Addison Scurlock and then two of his sons, including George Scurlock's father, ran a successful studio from 1911 to 1994. During that time, they captured the growth of a vibrant black middle class that thrived culturally and economically despite segregation. Later, the sons pictured the civil rights movement and then the riots that damaged once-flourishing neighborhoods.

"There was a professional and operating culture within the black community that ... had bountiful resources and beauty associated with it that I just don't think white America has an awareness of," George Scurlock Jr. says.

The era they chronicled now appears in about 100 photographs and other items in the exhibit, "The Scurlock Studio and Black Washington: Picturing the Promise," that opened Friday at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

Curators say the Scurlocks' confident and sophisticated portrayal of upwardly mobile black people helped counter negative stereotypes.

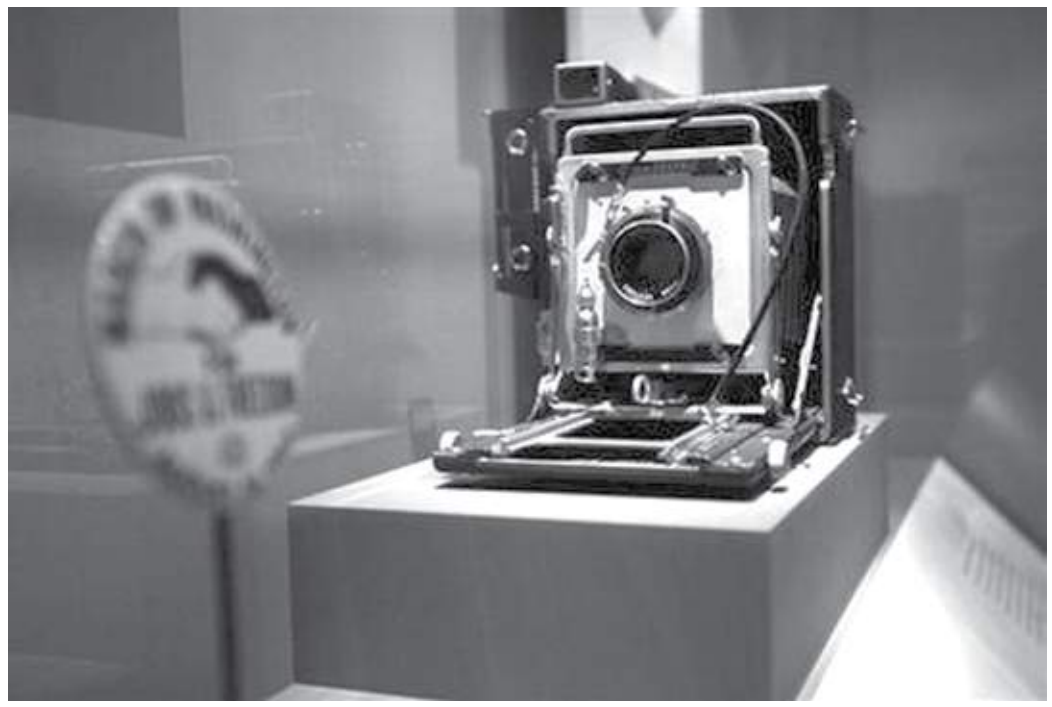
"You have these images that are representing the beauty of black folks, the dignity of African Americans not just in contrast to racist imagery, but the way in which people want to see themselves," notes Paul Gardullo, museum curator of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which helped curate the exhibit.

Besides the Scurlocks, several other black studio photographers also documented their communities' middle and upper middle classes. Among them were James VanDerZee and James Latimer Allen in New York City; Daniel L. Freeman in Washington; Cornelius M. Battey and his student, P.H. Polk, in Tuskegee, Ala.; and Arthur P. Bedou in Louisiana.

Curators hope that showcasing the work of Addison Scurlock and his sons, Robert and the elder George, will help make the family studio more widely known.

"(Addison) Scurlock has never achieved the national presence in the history of photography that I think is deserved," Michelle Delaney, associate curator of photography at the American history museum, says.

After training with Moses P. Rice, a prominent white photographer, Scurlock opened his studio in a bustling black neighborhood in northwest Washington. His sons later joined, learning their father's signature style—the "Scurlock look," which used soft focus, retouching, overhead and strobe lighting and careful positioning of a subject's face and body to create flattering profiles.



AP

One of the cameras used by the Scurlock family is on display, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009, as part of the exhibit, "The Scurlock Studio and Black Washington: Picturing the Promise", at the National Museum of American History in Washington.

Mamie Fearing Scurlock, Addison's wife, managed the studio's business and finances.

The exhibit shows the Scurlocks' many images of families, weddings, businesses, graduations and social groups through nearly a century. The famous also made up their clientele. Portraits of prominent black figures such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, and jazz great Duke Ellington line the exhibition's walls.

The photos speak of a black community that blossomed in the face of adversity. A panoramic shot shows dapper crowds near a carnival ride at Suburban Gardens Amusement Park, created in northeast Washington after black people were barred from Glen Echo Park in Maryland. (The Suburban Gardens park closed in 1940.)

The Scurlocks maintained close ties with Howard University, an integral institution of the black middle class. They served as official photographers for the historically black university for almost 90 years. Visitors can see photos of scientists, students studying or square-dancing, and dignitaries such as President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., both of whom visited the school.

Addison Scurlock occasionally stepped outside studio portraiture, as seen in a photo of a mass baptism on the Potomac River, and even experimented with his style. But his work seldom covered unscripted moments or the poorer sections of Washington.

His sons, George and Robert, carried on their father's techniques and values. But the brothers also branched out, using documentary photography to capture more spontaneous moments and grittier subject matter. That's evident in their photos of the riots following King's 1968 assassination. It can also be seen in a rare undated photo from the Scurlock studio in which children play in a littered alley behind row houses. They're stepping on garbage as a clothesline hangs above, and the U.S. Capitol dome looms in the distance.

Curators say the photo was likely taken by Robert Scurlock in the 1970s; the area may be southwest Washington, before it was razed and redeveloped.

Boyle, Nolan, Fincher vie for DGA's top honors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The filmmakers behind a superhero saga, a street-orphan tale, two dramas about fallen politicians and the life story of a man aging backward are in the running for top honors from the Directors Guild of America.

Nominated for the guild's feature-film award are Danny Boyle for the rags-to-riches story "Slumdog Millionaire"; David Fincher for the whimsical romance "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"; Ron Howard for the Richard Nixon drama "Frost/Nixon"; Christopher Nolan for the Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight"; and Gus Van Sant for the Harvey Milk biopic "Milk."

Among Hollywood's many honors on the buildup to the Academy Awards, the Directors Guild prizes have one of the best track records for predicting eventual Oscar winners. Only six times in the guild awards' 60-year history has the winner failed to take home the directing Oscar.

Nolan is the odd man out at the guild awards, the only contender who did not also receive an Oscar nomination. Boyle, Fincher, Howard and Van Sant all are nominated for the best-director Oscar, along with Stephen Daldry for the Holocaust-themed drama "The Reader."

While "Slumdog Millionaire" started as an underdog that nearly went straight to DVD, it has emerged as a potential Oscar favorite. Audiences have embraced Boyle's tale of a poor boy rising to fame and fortune from the streets of Mumbai, and the film triumphed at the Golden Globes and Producers Guild of America Awards, while taking the prize for best ensemble cast from the Screen Actors Guild.

Among awards presenters are Joel and Ethan Coen, who won the guild prize and the directing Oscar a year ago for "No Country for Old Men." Others scheduled to present awards include current Oscar nominees Sean Penn, Marisa Tomei, Melissa Leo, Amy Adams, Frank Langella, Viola Davis, Josh Brolin, Richard Jenkins and Michael Shannon.

Along with feature films, the Directors Guild hands out awards for achievements in documentary, commercials and TV programs including drama, comedy and daytime soap operas.

Q&A: 'Virtuosos' talk about film awards season

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—If you're looking for some good red-carpet dish, this is good company: Actors Viola Davis, Rosemarie DeWitt, Richard Jenkins, Melissa Leo and Michael Shannon, who, collectively, have likely walked down miles of arrivals lines over the last few months.

And all have at least a few more steps to go. Four are Oscar nominees, and three are in contention for Film Independent's Spirit Awards.

They were honored Wednesday night by the Santa Barbara International Film Festival with its second annual Virtuosos Award, presented to actors who marked their film breakouts over the last year.

And such is undoubtedly the case with these five honorees: Davis and Leo, who portrayed tortured mothers in "Doubt" and "Frozen River," respectively; Shannon as a mentally unstable son in "Revolutionary Road"; acting veteran Jenkins, the oldest of the group at 61, as a lost soul who finds a new life thanks to "The Visitor"; and DeWitt as the exasperated, titular sister with one toxic sibling in "Rachel Getting Married."

They sat down with The Associated Press before receiving their Santa Barbara honors.

AP: So, what's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "virtuoso"?

Leo: I thought maybe I needed to bring along my violin. (Laughs.)

AP

Actors, from left, Viola Davis, Michael Shannon, Rosemarie DeWitt, Richard Jenkins, and Melissa Leo pose for a portrait during the Santa Barbara Film Festival in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009.

AP: My understanding is the award is given to those who enjoyed film-career breakthroughs last year. So, Richard, how does it feel to be an overnight sensation? (All laugh.)

Jenkins: You know, the truth is nobody's ever said that to me. I mean, they look at me and they think, "He couldn't have just started." (More laughter from all.)

DeWitt: For me (this group is) like a master class in acting. You remember to have a sense of danger, like Michael (pointing to Shannon), or (turning to Davis and Leo) these two, ferocious, ferocious women in performances.

Jenkins: And what about me?

DeWitt: Subtle stillness, and so much beauty.

AP: Who's got a great red-carpet story?

Shannon: Oh yeah, I don't know if I should tell it though.

Jenkins: You have to now!

Shannon: It was when we were at the Palm Springs festival, it got a little congested, a little crowded, and I was standing next to ("Entertainment Tonight" host) Mary Hart, and somebody jostled into me and my hand shook and it bounced off of her derriere.

AP: So, how was it?

Shannon: I mean, it BOUNCED!

(The other Virtuosos howl with laugher.)

AP: In her acceptance speech at Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards, Meryl Streep said, "Viola Davis—my god, somebody give her a movie!" So, did the phone ring the next day?

Davis: I decline to answer that. Here's the thing: Doing all of this publicity, I didn't think much of it other than it was a great compliment ... that this women who I was terrified of (on the) first day of shooting and who I have admired so many years, liked me. She really, really liked me.

Jenkins: OK, but did your phone ring the next day?

Davis: I decline, Richard. I decline.

Audiences heart 'Paul Blart'

AP

In this image released by Sony Pictures, Kevin James is shown in the comedy, "Paul Blart: Mall Cop."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Much like its goofy titular character, "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" has defied expectations. The slapstick comedy, which cost a mere $26 million to produce, is speeding toward the $100 million mark following back-to-back weekends atop the box office.

Could this surprise success signal the arrival of Kevin James in Hollywood's stable of bankable leading comedic actors? For nine seasons, James served as the lovable master of ceremonies on the CBS sitcom "The King of Queens." Now, audiences have been filling movie theaters to see 43-year-old James as Paul Blart, a hypoglycemic single father who takes his security-guard job at the West Orange Pavilion Mall in New Jersey way too seriously.

"I think it had so much heart," said the movie's casting director, Jeanne McCarthy, who also worked on "Forgetting Sarah Marshall. "I think Kevin James totally has achieved leading-man status. When he was on 'King of Queens,' I would watch a 'King of Queens' episode over anything else—even when it was syndicated."

Jeff Sussman, James' longtime manager, said he was not surprised at his client's recent box office boom. Sussman said James has always been deliberately cautious about making the leap from television to film—first teaming with Will Smith in 2005's "Hitch" and then with Adam Sandler in 2007's "I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry."

But James, previously untested as a leading man, has proven he can command a movie with "Paul Blart."

James is fielding several projects, including one in development that's poised to capitalize on a clearly winning formula: "Zookeeper," which will again feature him as a uniformed leading man. He also plans to co-star in another movie with Sandler, whose Happy Madison Productions helped produce "Paul Blart."

To be sure, exactly what's been drawing audiences to James' first lead role could have nothing to do with James. It's not as if moviegoers were overwhelmed with fresh choices in mid-January, typically a dumping ground for studios; and the theory goes that lighter fare plays best in downbeat times.

Whatever the reason, there's at least one group that doesn't heart "Paul Blart": real security guards. For starters, they say the phrase "mall cop" is nearly as demeaning as the dreaded "rent-a-cop" moniker.

"I think it reinforces a stereotype the security industry has been working on dispelling for years," said Bob Zalud, editor of Security magazine. "These good folks are trained rather well, in terms of hours accumulated. It would seem, in some ways, we're still fighting a perception that they are less than fully trained or just adequate at their jobs."

Bud Bradley, operations vice president of AlliedBarton Security Services, which provides security services across the country to—among other places—retail malls, said he was concerned about the portrayal of mall security officers as wannabe cops in "Paul Blart," but he acknowledged he thought the movie was funny—although not very realistic.

"Our challenges with security officers is making sure they perform up to expectations and their level of authority," said Bradley. "In the movie, Paul Blart takes on a role where he gets involved in a criminal matter. At that point, our officers would know to stand down, step back and allow the law enforcement to take over."

James himself said he hopes children learn to appreciate the Paul Blarts of the world from the PG-rated film.

"I hope they respect mall cops, is what I hope, really," James said while promoting the movie. "You know, what I've experienced and I see is that they just get abused, these mall police officers. I can't even call them police officers because they're not real police. That's their job, when the going gets tough, to call the real police."

At 100, Billy Graham singer's voice still booming

MONTREAT, N.C. (AP)—George Beverly Shea is skipping from memory to memory of his globe-trotting career as evangelist Billy Graham's crusade crooner. When words can't explain, he bellows out a song.

"Oh, can it be, upon a tree, the Savior died for me?" Shea sings from a John Newton hymn, his raw and rumbling voice describing how music fits into ministry. "My soul is thrilled, my heart is filled, to think He died for me."

Shea planned to celebrate his 100th birthday Sunday, and the songs that defined his career still burst out in a signature bass-baritone that can quiet a room in an instant. Shea worked with Graham for more than half a century, making him one of the world's most recognized voices: He's sung live in front of an estimated 200 million people. And he's still making special appearances without his longtime partner.

"When they ask me to sing these days, they're just being kind, you know?" Shea said, an idea his wife rejects.

"When everybody else sings, it's a personality singing," Karlene Shea said. "When he sings, something else comes over you—the words, the message, and you forget he's standing there."

Though he's about a decade older than Graham, Shea is in far better health. Aside from a heart attack earlier this decade, Shea's only ailment is a painful back. He walks—mostly with the aid of a walker—and still visits all the restaurants near his mountainside home.

While Shea hasn't driven a vehicle since he was 95, he noticed a year ago that his driver's license had expired. Wanting to keep an updated form of identification, he went down to the local office, passed the vision test and won a new license.

"I don't feel 100," Shea said during a recent interview at his home in Montreat, about 15 miles east of Asheville.

Shea's life is mostly quiet these days, spent in Montreat with Karlene. He often watches reruns of Graham sermons that he says still move him. Though he lives just a mile away from his famous partner, he and Graham mostly speak by phone. Graham's health has been slipping for years and he has been hospitalized several times in recent years for various ailments.

AP

George Beverly Shea talks at his home in Montreat, N.C., Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009.

Though Shea's career is largely behind him—his last major production was a country-and-western album in 1997—he still sings at senior celebrations and other events connected to Graham's ministry.

Born in Winchester, Ontario, on Feb. 1, 1909, Shea grew up singing in the choir of his father's Wesleyan church. After moving to New York City, the budding virtuoso had several chances to perform on secular radio programs but shied away after auditioners wanted him to sing songs such as "To Hell With Burgundy."

So Shea left for Chicago and started work at the Moody Bible Institute as a singer on gospel radio. It was there that Graham, just 21 years old at the time, first met Shea after hearing his voice on the airwaves.

Four years later, in 1947, Shea joined Graham's young crusade team, singing at an event in Charlotte and beginning a decades-long ministry that would reach to every state and every corner of the earth—from North Carolina to North Korea.

Writing "The Wonder of It All" and reviving songs such as "How Great Thou Art," Shea was at times given the moniker of "America's beloved gospel singer," riffing off Graham's role as "America's pastor." He recorded more than 70 albums of gospel music and won a Grammy along with 10 Grammy nominations.

But with a personality that strays from humble to bashful, Shea deemed his role in the ministry as "very insignificant"—especially compared with his contemporaries.

"What I do is old-fashioned," Shea said. "It's the guitar these days. When they sing at Mr. Graham's meetings, it's pretty exciting. People clap, you know? So they look for me to come up before the message and sort of quiet them down."

Imax chief bullish despite recession

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—The CEO of megascreen producer Imax Corp. said he was confident the movie business would remain "fairly recession-proof" and that his company would benefit this year from the release of the new "Star Trek" film and the latest "Harry Potter" epic.

Richard Gelfond said the Canadian company planned to release as many 10 films in Imax theaters in 2009—up from seven last year.

They include the big-screen adaptation of Alan Moore's acclaimed graphic novel "The Watchmen," a tale about ex-superheros in an alternate America; "Avatar," James Cameron's first feature film since the Oscar-winning "Titanic"; and "Lost" creator J.J. Abrams' much anticipated reboot of the legendary Star Trek franchise focusing on the exploits of Captain James T. Kirk and Mr. Spock.

"It's an unbelievable year for us," Gelfond said in an interview with The Associated Press Friday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

Gelfond didn't see the crisis eating into profits, which he said were still benefiting from Imax's shift five years ago from film to a digital medium, cutting costs significantly. It still costs between $1 million and $1.5 million to convert a 35 mm film into Imax format, but Gelfond said good films easily recover that.

The Imax version of the "The Dark Knight," the format's most successful film ever, raked in about $60 million last year on only 1 percent of screens it played on, he said. Imax takes in about 12.5 percent of profits from its screenings.

"The movie industry is generally fairly recession-proof," Gelfond said. "People see the movies as a simple pleasure. You may not be able to go on vacation. You may not be able to eat in a four-star restaurant. But you can go to the movies and get relatively inexpensive escapism."

An Imax screen is like high-definition for a movie theater. They can be anywhere from 40-feet high such as on 42nd street in New York—which Gelfond said was the highest grossing theater in America—to eight-story tall screens in London, Sydney and elsewhere in New York.

As many as 700 people can fit in a single cinema, making margins bigger than for normal movie halls.

"It's a premium experience at a premium price," he said. "But it's a simple premium. It's only about $3 more."

Of course, for films like last year's "Speed Racer," which Gelfond said flopped in Imax as it did on normal screens, profits may still prove elusive.

But he said the demand for theaters and Imax showings was continuing to grow.

There are currently about 175 commercial Imax theaters in the world, Gelfond said. A backlog of 250 exists—150 in the United States and 100 abroad—which the company hopes to build by late 2010 or early 2011 despite threats, he said.

He identified China and Russia as important growth markets, and said contracts are by and large being honored.

"Most of the contracts we get paid 90 percent of the money before we ship. So there's not a great incentive to walk away," he said. "On the other hand, particular internationally, some of the new projects are based on new construction. So we're monitoring that."

Spears gets restraining order on Lutfi, Ghalib

LOSANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears has obtained a restraining order against former pal Osama "Sam" Lutfi and one-time boyfriend Adnan Ghalib, court records show. Attorneys for Spears and her father, who is her legal conservator, received the order Friday. The documents state that Lutfi, Ghalib and attorney Jon Eardley have been trying to gain control of Spears' affairs.

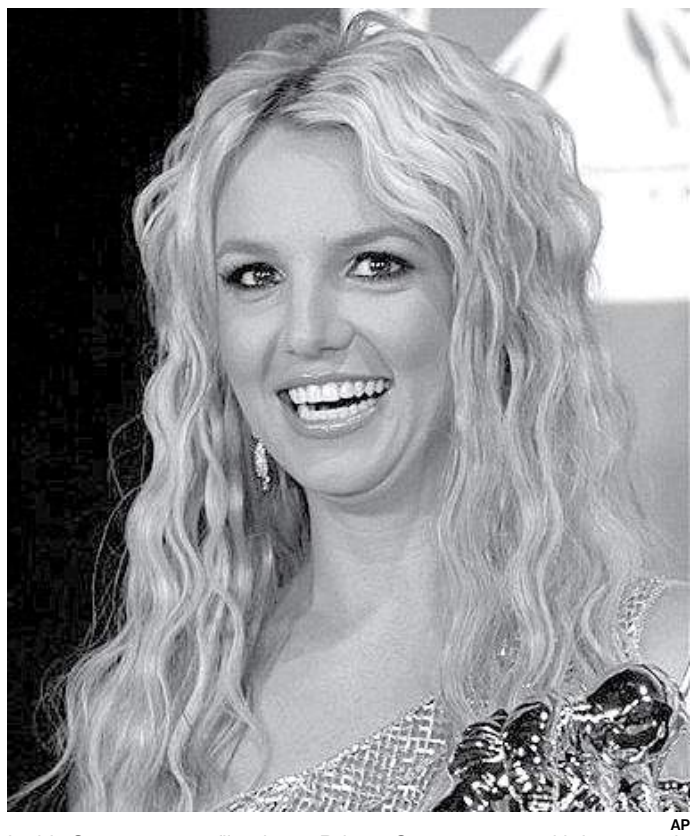
"On the first anniversary of the establishment of the conservatorship, the co-conservators are informed and believe that these three figures are working in concert to disrupt the conservatorship, with an utter disregard for Ms. Spears' health and well being," the documents state.

Lutfi was a manager and friend of Spears, whose mother once accused him of grinding pills into her food to control her. Ghalib, a paparazzo, had dated the singer.

Judge Aviva K. Bobb signed a temporary restraining order Friday forbidding Lutfi, Ghalib and Eardley from having contact with Spears, her parents and her young children. A hearing on whether to extend the order is scheduled for next month.

The documents, released late Friday, claim that Lutfi tried to contact Spears in late December by sending text messages to her hairdresser. The documents state Lutfi later started sending text messages to Spears and one of her father's attorneys, Blair Berk, trying to arrange a meeting.

Spears father, Jamie, wrote in a sworn declaration that he has found Lutfi's phone number in his daughter's phone records.



AP

In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, Britney Spears poses with her awards backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

The documents state that Spears continues to inform Ghalib of her travel "and that he then arranges for paparazzi to meet and film her to his financial benefit," the documents state.

A phone message left for Lutfi was not returned Friday. A phone number for Ghalib could not immediately be found.

Geraldine Wyle, an attorney for Jamie Spears, wrote that Lutfi and Ghalib have "disappeared," and private investigators had been trying to find the pair unsuccessfully for six weeks.

The order, first reported Friday by the celebrity Web site TMZ, alleges that Lutfi has also sent "anonymous, harassing and threatening" messages to Spears' father.

This week, the documents state, an attorney sent a proposal to remove Spears' court appointed attorney. He later told Spears' attorneys that he had been contacted by Eardley and Lutfi, according to the filings. The documents were never filed with the court, and that attorney dropped Lutfi and Eardley as clients, the documents state.

Eardley once claimed to be Spears' attorney and tried to get her conservatorship case moved to federal court. A phone message left at Eardley's office was not returned Friday.

Spears and her father agreed not to renew a temporary restraining order that was issued against Lutfi last year when it expired in July.

At the time, Spears' court-appointed attorney Samuel D. Ingham III issued a statement renouncing their friendship. "Britney has made clear to everyone that she does not want to be further harassed or contacted in any way by Osama 'Sam' Lutfi, now or at anytime in the future," Ingham said in a statement.

Lutfi at the time declined to comment, saying only that he and Jamie Spears had reached an agreement.

That arrangement called for Lutfi to have no contact with Britney Spears or her parents, according to details released Friday.

Spears was placed under the conservatorship a year ago on Sunday. The arrangement has been expensive—her estate has paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees—but since her father took control of her life, the pop singer has not had the bouts of erratic behavior, including two hospitalizations, that led to his intervention.

She released her newest album, "Circus" in December on her 27th birthday and is preparing for an upcoming concert tour.

Prosecutor: Polanski defense motion is 'frivolous'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A prosecutor on Friday urged an appellate court to reject a motion by fugitive director Roman Polanski's lawyer to disqualify the entire Los Angeles Superior Court bench from the rape case.

The California Second District Court of Appeal had stopped a scheduled hearing and asked for the district attorney's response to the motion by Polanski's lawyer.

Polanski is seeking dismissal of a 31-year-old rape case involving a 13-year-old girl. However, his lawyer, Chad Hummel, made a last-minute plea to stay the hearing, claiming the entire Los Angeles Superior Court bench was biased against the award-winning movie director.

Head Deputy District Attorney Lael Rubin wrote in a 24-page brief that the allegation of bias is "patently frivolous" and based on "mere conclusions with no factual basis."

AP

In this Monday, Sept. 29, 2008, file photo, Polish director Roman Polanski is seen in Oberhausen, western Germany.

"No person aware of all the facts, would entertain any doubt about the impartiality of Judge (Peter) Espinoza and certainly not the entire bench of the Los Angeles Superior Court," the prosecutor argued.

Hummel argued that the county court system's 600 members should be disqualified from hearing the case and a neutral judge should be appointed from outside the county. Espinoza, the Superior Court's presiding judge who was scheduled to conduct the hearing, turned down the original claim of bias.

The document filed Friday denied that a statement by the court's public information officer about the Polanski case had been authorized by the judge.

The new round of legal motions in the long dormant case was prompted by the release of an HBO documentary, "Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired." The dismissal motion is based on new information revealed in the documentary about actions of the now deceased trial judge.

Rubin said the judge's actions were irrelevant to the current disqualification motion.

Hummel argued that the communications between the judge and prosecutor were clear misconduct and violated Polanski's constitutional rights.

The girl who was sexually violated, now a 45-year-old woman, has filed an affidavit supporting dismissal of the case.

Polanski, 75, living in exile in France, received a directing Oscar in absentia for 2002's "The Pianist." He has also directed such classic films as "Chinatown" and "Rosemary's Baby."

Lachey defends ex-wife's apparent weight gain

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Nick Lachey is defending ex-wife Jessica Simpson, who has been criticized for an apparent weight gain.

Photos of a curvier Simpson performing last week in Florida have been plastered all over the Internet, leading to a slew of nasty comments about her weight.

Lachey, who was divorced from Simpson in 2006 after four years of marriage, defended her when asked about the criticism Friday night at a Super Bowl party he co-hosted with NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson.

"I think it's ridiculous that the media is making such a big deal about it," he said at his Super Skins Celebrity Golf Classic party. "It's ridiculous that it would be making headlines. But you can't believe everything that's written or reported in the media. I wish her nothing but happiness."

The New York Post ran an editorial cartoon mocking Simpson, and Saturday ran a photo of her performing Thursday night in Charlottesville, Va., wearing a black leather ensemble. The Post described the outfit as a "waist-length jacket over her skin-tight pants and wide belt."

Lachey joined a growing list of celebrities in defense of Simpson that includes super model Heidi Klum, curvy reality TV star Kim Kardashian and Simpson's sister, Ashlee Simpson-Wentz.

"I am completely disgusted by the headlines concerning my sister's weight," Ashlee wrote on her blog this week. "A week after the inauguration and with such a feeling of hope in the air for our country, I find it completely embarrassing and belittling to all women to read about a woman's weight or figure.

"All women come in different shapes, sizes, and forms and just because you're a celebrity, there shouldn't be a different standard."

Dad makes light of 'fat' comment to teenage girl

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My daughter's 15-year-old friend "Willa" no longer comes over to our house. When I asked my daughter why, she said my husband told Willa she was getting fat. Willa told her mother, and her mother told her not to visit us anymore.

I confronted my husband and told him his comment was rude and that he should never have said it. My husband says I'm wrong, making a huge deal out of nothing and he did not mean anything by it. As a mother, I would not appreciate a grown man making comments about my daughter's body.

Am I wrong to think my husband's remark is a form of sexual harassment, even though it was not in the workplace?

UPSET MOM IN BELLFLOWER

DEAR UPSET MOM: I wouldn't classify your husband's unfortunate remark as sexual harassment. I would, however, call it extremely insensitive and inappropriate. It cost your daughter a girlfriend, so to her it IS a big deal. I'm sure your husband would have been similarly hurt and offended had Willa remarked to him that he is getting a paunch or losing his hair. Suggest it to him, and maybe then he'll get it.

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago, my husband and I decided to clean out our garage. Stored on a top shelf was the box containing my wedding dress. As I pulled it down, I wondered what it looked like after 21 years. After our wedding night I had sent it to the cleaners to be dry-cleaned and boxed. It was returned to me with a gold seal across the opening.

I decided to break the seal and check the condition of the dress, hoping no moths had gotten to it. When I opened the box, there was no wedding dress inside. My husband asked if I had let someone borrow it. "No," I replied, "the box has been sealed all this time."

Then it dawned on me that my dress had never been returned from the cleaners. I never thought to check inside the box when I got it back. Please pass this on as a warning to future and current brides to check their wedding boxes!

DUPED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DUPED: What happened was truly unfortunate, and I am pleased to spread the word. It's far too late to find out if your dress was lost or stolen, but checking the box makes sense—if only to make sure the dress inside is the one that was sent to the cleaners. Better to be safe than sorry.

DEAR ABBY: I want to propose to my boyfriend of 3 1/2 years. We're both in our 30s. My problem is, I don't know what to present to him (like an engagement ring) when I do.

Have you any ideas? Is it strange for a woman to propose to a man?

DOING IT BACKWARD, BUTLER, PA.

DEAR DOING IT BACKWARD: It isn't strange at all. Women have been proposing to men ever since romantic love entered the picture.

There is no rule that a man must present anything to his intended at the time he proposes, and neither should you. If your boyfriend says yes, the two of you can discuss what he might like to have as an engagement gift at the time you both select a ring for you.

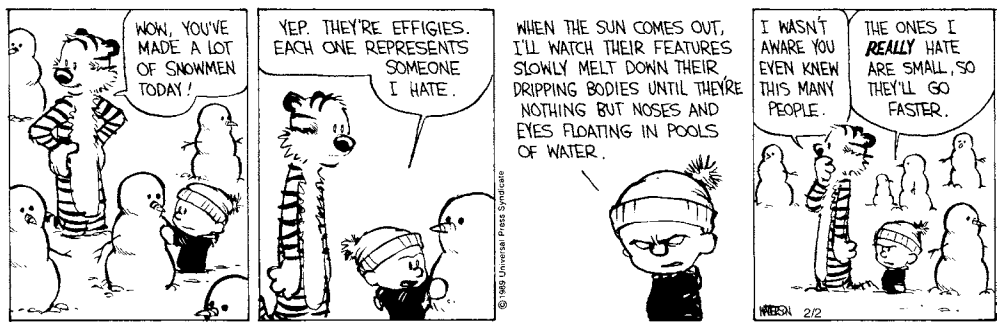
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WOW, YOU'VE MADE A LOT OF SNOWMEN TODAY!
YEP. THEY'RE EFFIGIES. EACH ONE REPRESENTS SOMEONE I HATE.
WHEN THE SUN COMES OUT, I'LL WATCH THEIR FEATURES SLOWLY MELT DOWN THEIR DRIPPING BODIES UNTIL THEY'RE NOTHING BUT NOSES AND EYES FLOATING IN POOLS OF WATER.
I WASN'T AWARE YOU EVEN KNEW THIS MANY PEOPLE.
THE ONES I REALLY HATE ARE SMALL, SO THEY'LL GO FASTER.
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WATTERSON 2/2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THE GROUNDHOG WON'T COME OUT OF HIS HOLE. HE'S TOO HUNGOVER FROM SUPER BOWL SUNDAY.
GLENN McCOY
2009 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
2-2

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

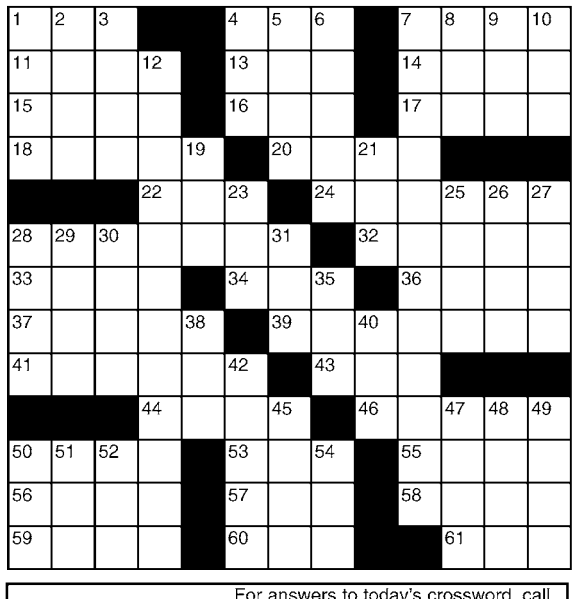
ACROSS
1 Pouch
4 Paintings
7 Jazzy phrase
11 Enthusiastic, and then some
13 Legume
14 Nastase of tennis fame
15 Frost
16 Bill
17 Ball of yarn
18 Office mail receiver
20 Milne bear
22 Tear
24 Vitamin C source
28 Delicate
32 Fracture
33 Entice
34 Tibetan critter
36 Moon-struck state
37 Reserved
39 Dangled a carrot
41 Bicycle parts
43 Combat
44 Ready for the picking
46 Miniature
50 Cohort of Ringo
53 German pronoun
55 Sandwich cookie
56 Stereo hookup
57 Letter after pi
58 Skaters' venue
59 Press clothes
60 Very long time
61 Payable

DOWN
1 Indian wrap
2 Not "fer"
3 Barber's tool
4 Likely
5 Harvest
6 For-bidden
7 Controversial comedy legend
8 Under the weather
9 "A curse upon thee!"
10 A handful
12 Controversial comedy legend
19 Noon, in a sense
21 Sphere
23 Thickness
25 Tidy
26 Stare
27 Supplemented, with "out"
28 Dud
29 Mysterious character
30 Saharan
31 Consume
35 London's — Gardens
38 Actor Wallach
40 Page in an atlas
42 Steeple
45 Reverberate
47 Crossword diagram, e.g.
48 Options list
49 Oxen's joiner
50 — Beta Kappa
51 Atmosphere
52 E.T.'s vessel?
54 Sweetie

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	E	R	F	S	■	I	M	A	M	S	■
A	L	L	O	U	T	■	N	E	G	A	T	E
D	E	A	D	E	R	■	H	E	A	D	E	R
L	E	T	■	L	E	G	I	T	■	M	I	N
E	V	E	N	■	W	E	B	■	R	A	N	I
R	E	S	E	T	■	L	I	C	E	N	S	E
■	■	■	W	O	N	■	T	A	B	■	■	■
M	I	S	S	T	E	P	■	D	I	C	T	A
O	N	L	Y	■	U	R	N	■	D	O	W	N
I	D	O	■	S	T	O	O	P	■	N	E	D
L	E	A	D	E	R	■	R	E	A	D	E	R
S	E	N	O	R	A	■	T	R	I	O	D	E
■	D	E	C	A	L	■	H	U	R	R	Y	■

Saturday's answer 2-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael T. Weiss, 47; Christie Brinkley, 55; Brent Spiner, 59; Farrah Fawcett, 62

Happy Birthday: Don't take life so seriously and things will flow better for you this year. There will be support and help from those who care about you and want to see you do well. Relax and refuse to get wrapped up in the melodrama. Bide your time, listen to good advice and work on the relationships that are worth keeping. Your numbers are 2, 6, 13, 20, 23, 31, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will be taken advantage of if you do too much for others. Listen but do not meddle. Your best efforts will come from working for your own benefit, taking care of unfinished business, projects and promises. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't give your true feelings away with your reactions. You can expect someone to try to take credit for something you did. Don't get angry but do set the record straight. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone will go behind your back if he or she thinks it will give them a professional edge. There is money to be made but a move or learning a new skill may be required. Someone you least expect will help you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Use your ingenuity and you will come up with some good ideas for budgeting or bringing in more money. Chances are there is a service you can offer or a craft you produce that can be marketed. Making alterations or sizing down can help ease financial stress. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't be fooled by what someone is telling you, especially if it has to do with finances, a professional position or a legal settlement or contract. You have to question everything and everyone if you intend to get what you want. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You need a vacation. The experience will lead you in a whole new direction—one of exhilaration and prosperity for your future. Love is in the stars and commitment is within your reach. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): It's experience coupled with your ability to socialize that will get you where you want to go. Networking will pay off but don't let it cost you too much. An idea you have will be well received. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be tempted by someone who may not be telling you the whole truth. Back up and rethink your priorities. You cannot give time or money to someone else when you have your own projects to pay for and manage. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Additional responsibilities will be a lot to handle but are essential to your own well-being and future. Someone questioning your loyalty may be guilty of exactly what he or she is accusing you of doing. Face any controversy head-on. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Consider what you can do to increase the value of your home or lower your overhead.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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There is money to be made if you are calculating and quick to make a move. Emotional issues can be dealt with, bringing about greater understanding. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't jump to conclusions or make a hasty decision. Be sure before you make a move that will alter your lifestyle or confine you in any way. Rely on past experience to lead you in the right direction. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may be swindled if you let your emotions get involved in a money-making decision. Find out all you need to know about a job or company change that will affect your position. Uncertainty will cause grief and turmoil. Don't leave anything to chance. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed and determined. You are bold and sensitive and always stand up for the underdog. You like to be in control.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8	5				7	4		
4		7		3	9		2	
	2							1
					1		9	6
	3						5	
6	8		5					
5							6	
	9		4	1		3		7
		4	6				1	2

Difficulty Level ★ 2/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	2	5	4	6	8	1	3
5	4	6	1	3	8	9	2	7
3	1	8	2	7	9	6	4	5
2	3	5	9	8	1	4	7	6
6	9	7	4	2	3	1	5	8
1	8	4	7	6	5	3	9	2
4	5	3	6	9	2	7	8	1
7	6	1	8	5	4	2	3	9
8	2	9	3	1	7	5	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MOUNT KHUITEN, MONGOLIA **Solution: 7 letters**

K	S	R	O	P	E	K	I	H	E	R	D	E	R	S
A	C	R	K	R	I	D	G	E	T	E	D	I	U	G
Z	E	L	E	C	O	T	O	U	R	I	S	M	L	H
A	N	A	I	E	O	T	C	M	E	E	D	E	T	U
K	I	N	A	M	N	R	N	H	K	E	V	C	I	N
H	C	D	X	E	B	I	P	K	R	A	P	I	M	T
N	(S)	A	C	S	H	E	A	E	R	E	S	T	M	E
W	(T)	S	P	C	A	V	V	T	A	I	S	S	U	R
O	(E)	S	L	K	P	O	T	A	N	I	N	E	S	E
D	(P)	A	X	A	C	B	E	O	L	U	I	J	E	I
B	M	N	T	S	F	A	R	P	W	P	O	A	A	C
A	Y	H	I	E	S	A	B	A	O	E	I	M	G	A
L	A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	L	R	N	L	L
S	N	O	I	T	A	V	E	L	E	B	S	S	E	G
U	P	E	E	T	S	E	L	G	N	A	G	A	L	I

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Above, Adventure, Agali, Alpine, Angles, Backpack, Base, Bear, Climb, Descent, Down, Eagle, Ecotourism, Elevation, Glacier, Guide, Herders, Hike, Hunter, Ibex, Kazakh, Land, Lynx, Majestic, Malchin, Mountaineer, Park, Path, Peak, Pitch, Potanin, Rest, Ridge, Rise, Rock, Rope, Russia, Scenic, Slab, Slope, Steep, Step, Summit, Tower, Travel, Trek, Undiscovered

Last Saturday's Answer: Sponsors

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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BOAT CAPTAIN
25 TON LIC. MINIMUM
FULL TIME
For more info please call 287-2732

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(WE BUY, SELL, LEASE, RENT PROPERTIES)

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3br, 2bth house, Capital Hill… **$900**/mo.
4br, 2bth house, Tototville…. **$950**/mo.
4br, 3bth house, Gualo Rai…. **$900**/mo.
3br, 2bth house, Garapan….. **$950**/mo.

APARTMENTS

2br, 1bth furnished, Beach Rd. CK w/ WiFi .**$400**/mo.
Spacious studio furnished, Gualo Rai w/ WiFi .**$300**/mo.
2br, 1bth furnished, CK……..**$350**/mo.
2br, 1bth furnished, Dandan… **$350**/mo.
1br, 1bth furnished, Susupe… **$275**/mo.
2br, 1bth w/ swimming pool…**$750**/mo.
Back-up generator

SALE & LEASE

4br, 2bth house, Dandan, oceanview……. **$210K**
5br, 4bth house, Dandan, oceanview……. **$250K**
4br, 3bth house, Dandan, newly renovated .. **$140K**
4br, 2bth house + 2unit 2br apt. As Terlaje .. **$160K**
3br, 1bth house, Gualo Rai, oceanview…… **$110K**
Executive 5br, 3bth house, w/ swimming pool, Papago. Must see to appreciate……**$320K**
5br, 3bth house, Kobler with fence…….. **$165K**

LAND

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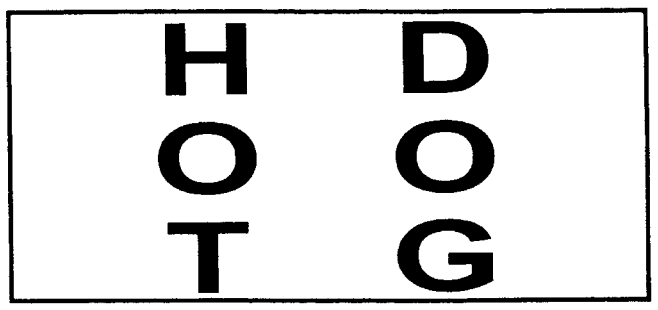
WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution:
Hot dog stand

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, **Plaintiff,** **vs.** **JOSEPH S. CAMACHO** **Defendant.**	**Civil Action No. 08-0427** **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT JOSEPH S. CAMACHO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for the Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.o. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 14th day of January 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Clerk of Court

Advertise your company to the world!

The Saipan Tribune website averages 6, 994,897 hits and 204, 298 visits per month. That's an average of 225,641 hits and 6590 visits per day (average between Aug.-Oct. 2008).

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• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Dynasty vs. doormat in the Super Bowl

Participants at the NFL Experience walk past giant Roman numerals outside Raymond James Stadium, home of Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa, Fla., Friday, Jan. 30, 2009.

AP

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Dynasty vs. doormat.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have signified success in the Super Bowl era with their stable ownership, brilliant coaching and throwback style. A victory Sunday will give them a record sixth Super Bowl title, and they are 6 1/2-point favorites to get it against the Arizona Cardinals.

Yes, those Cardinals—a franchise that has defined dysfunction since the 1950s.

If it's easy to believe the Steelers are back in the big game three years after winning one for the thumb against Seattle, it's just as difficult - nearly impossible, actually—to believe the Cardinals are providing the opposition. This is a classic yin and yang setup: the defensively miserly AFC champs against the offensively potent NFC winners. The team with the proud history against the club with the forgettable past.

As if any of that matters now.

"Legacies are something you kind of worry about after the season," Steelers All-Pro safety Troy Polamalu said.

When that season ends Sunday night, the Steelers will be judged by a commitment to excellence - sorry, Al Davis—established by the Steel Curtain teams of Chuck Noll in the 1970s and carried on through the Bill Cowher years. It is not something they can ignore, even if their coach, Mike Tomlin, has been on the job only two years and has few ties to Noll or Cowher.

Indeed, when they look around Raymond James Stadium and see all those fans waving Terrible Towels, the players will readily accept that extra burden every Steeler has carried for decades.

"Well, there are really a lot of reasons. Success has had something to do with it," Steelers owner Dan Rooney said. "The fact that they have had difficult times ... in Pittsburgh and we sort of filled the void—they could have something for their pride."

The Steelers could have something for the ring finger on the other hand after filling up five fingers following the 1974, '75, '78, '79 and 2005 seasons. They currently are tied with Dallas and San Francisco at five Super Bowl titles, but unlike the Cowboys and 49ers of late, the Steelers (14-4) have been regulars in the postseason.

Which is something the Cardinals could only have dreamed of. Since moving to Arizona in 1988, they've had two winning seasons. In 1997, they were a wild-card qualifier and beat Dallas in the playoffs, which merely was the franchise's second postseason victory. Ever.

The other came in the 1947 NFL championship game, and the Cardinals didn't even host a playoff contest again until last month's wild-card win over Atlanta.

They followed with victories over Carolina and Philadelphia, all as underdogs, to surpass their all-time postseason victory total—and shockingly get into the Super Bowl.

A wonderful story, with only one acceptable ending for the Cardinals (12-7).

"Nobody remembers the Super Bowl loser," defensive tackle Darnell Dockett said. "I don't believe in losing.

"We are definitely the underdogs. We all play with the underdog mentality. Once we got in the playoffs and we realized were going to be the underdogs no matter what or who we played, we thought we would shock the world.

"One more step."

But any steps forward against Pittsburgh's league-leading defense come with a price. The Steelers allowed the fewest points (223) and ranked first in nearly every defensive category, led by Defensive Player of the Year James Harrison and James Farrior at linebacker, Polamalu in the secondary, and the brilliant coordinating of Dick LeBeau. When Tomlin, steeped in the 4-3 defensive alignment, was hired, he wisely didn't toy with Pittsburgh's 3-4 setup, and he gave LeBeau all kinds of leeway.

The result is a unit as fearsome as any previous Steel Curtain, even if LeBeau downplays the dominance.

"We try to level the field a little bit for your guys, that's all," he said. "We're always going to be a stimulus-response type of situation, but hopefully by moving and bringing some different people in different combinations, we can deter some of the things they want to do."

They've done it to everyone else this season; the Cardinals certainly can expect a dose of that punishing D.

"I think the biggest thing about the Steelers that you're concerned with, especially from a defensive standpoint, is just all the different looks that they give you," said quarterback Kurt Warner, whose reclamation story—from two-time league MVP and 2000 Super Bowl champion to retread to star—is unique for the Cardinals. "It's going to be key for us to understand, to watch film, and to be able to recognize.

"They're going to throw things at us that we've never seen before with all their playmakers and all the different guys they can move around. Our recognition of what they're doing, where they're coming from, who we're blocking, who are the free guys, I think that's going to be a huge key come Sunday evening on how much success we have."

Of course, Warner isn't exactly operating without support. All-Pro wideout Larry Fitzgerald already has a postseason-record 419 yards receiving and five TDs. He has been uncoverable throughout the playoffs.

If Warner gets time, he and Fitzgerald could swing matters in Arizona's favor.

Smith, Woodson, 4 others make NFL Hall of Fame

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Bruce Smith, Rod Woodson and Derrick Thomas, all witnesses for the defense. All Pro Football Hall of Famers.

The three were elected on Saturday along with longtime Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson, who at age 90 will be the oldest person ever inducted; former Minnesota guard Randall McDaniel; and the late Bob Hayes, a standout wide receiver for Dallas and the 1964 Olympic 100 meters gold medalist.

Inductions will be Aug. 8 in Canton, Ohio.

The only candidate among the seven finalists who didn't get in was former Falcons and Eagles defensive end Claude Humphrey.

Former commissioner Paul Tagliabue was denied entry for the third straight year, not even making it past the first round of cuts.

Tagliabue, who retired in 2006 after 17 years in the job, has met strong resistance in his three years of eligibility despite the profitability and labor peace the league enjoyed during his tenure.

No such problem for Smith and Woodson in their first year on the ballot.

"I am overjoyed," said Smith, the career sacks leader who spent most of his career with the Bills.

"It's a great honor, a great feat," said Woodson, the former defensive back who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers, among other teams. "I'm still pinching myself a little bit, thinking it's surreal."

The moist poignant moment, however, came when Hayes' sister, Lucille Hester, read from a thank-you letter Hayes left in case he made the hall. He died in 2002.

"It didn't matter how long it took. ... The day is here, and it is historic," she said.

A defensive end, Smith retired five years ago with 200 sacks and made two all-decade teams. Drafted No. 1 overall in 1985, Smith had the most seasons with double-digit sacks (13) and the most postseason sacks (14 1/2). He earned defensive player of the year honors in 1990 and 1996 with Buffalo and concluded his 19-season career with four seasons as a Redskin.

Smith previously said making the hall would be a bigger honor if two other Bills, Wilson and wide receiver Andre Reed, also got in the same year. He got half of his wish.

"What a phenomenal class, and especially with having Ralph Wilson, the founding owner of the Buffalo Bills, to be inducted in the '09 class as well," Smith said. "This is truly special."

Then his thoughts turned to his family.

"Just thinking about my father and all the sacrifices he and my mother made when I was a child growing up to be a man," Smith added, tearfully. "How he wanted me to have a life better than he had. I just wish he was here. He would be extremely proud of this day."

Wilson and the Titans' Bud Adams are the only original AFL members who still own their franchises. Their teams will meet in the Hall of Fame game the day after the inductions.

Wilson has steadfastly kept his team in a small market while other owners bolted for the bright lights and big bucks of mega stadiums. He drew the biggest ovation at the announcement and mentioned that he'd seen every hall enshrinee perform at some point.

"Pro football to me is not about making money. It's a matter of competition, the flow of the game," he said. "People in the community become attached to a team. It gives them a quality of life.

"I had a chance to move that team. I think it would be crazy to do that."

Woodson, the 1993 defensive player of the year, also made the 1990s all-decade team. He led the NFL in interceptions in 1999 with Baltimore and 2002 with Oakland, and in kickoff returns (27.3-yard average) in 1989 with Pittsburgh. He played cornerback and safety for the Steelers, 49ers, Ravens and Raiders in a 17-season career, winning the NFL championship with Baltimore in the 2001 game and making Super Bowls with Pittsburgh and Oakland.

Woodson is the career leader in interception returns for touchdowns with 12.

"I don't think any of us started playing football because we wanted to be in the Hall of Fame," Woodson added. "I started playing football because my brothers played."

Thomas, who died nine years ago after an auto accident while still an active player, also was on the 1990s all-decade team and was the 1989 defensive rookie of the year. He is 11th in career sacks with 126 1/2.

A rushing outside linebacker who also had responsibilities in pass coverage for Kansas City, Thomas set an NFL mark with seven sacks in one game against Seattle on Nov. 11, 1990, a year in which he paced the NFL with 20 sacks.

"Derrick Thomas was the cornerstone of the modern era of the Kansas City Chiefs and one of the most feared performers of his era," Chiefs owner Clark Hunt said. "Every head coach and offensive coordinator who faced the Chiefs during the 1990s knew when they came to Arrowhead Stadium they had to account for Derrick Thomas."

McDaniel was that rare guard as effective in pass protection as run blocking and could handle even the best defensive linemen singlehandedly. He missed only two games in his 14-season career and was yet another member of the 1990s all-decade team.

"Randall was a beast," Smith said. "Once he locked on to you, you couldn't go anywhere."

Hayes was the most dangerous deep threat in pro football from 1965-75. Nicknamed "Bullet Bob," he twice he led the NFL in touchdown catches and in average yards per reception. He also was a brilliant kick returner.

The long wait for Hayes to get into the hall—he was a senior committee choice—had much to do with problems he had off the field.

Hayes served 10 months in a Texas prison after pleading guilty in 1979 to delivering narcotics to an undercover officer. That "destroyed my life" Hayes wrote in his autobiography, "Run, Bullet, Run: The Rise, Fall, and Recovery of Bob Hayes." The prison term ended at about the same time he first became eligible for the hall.

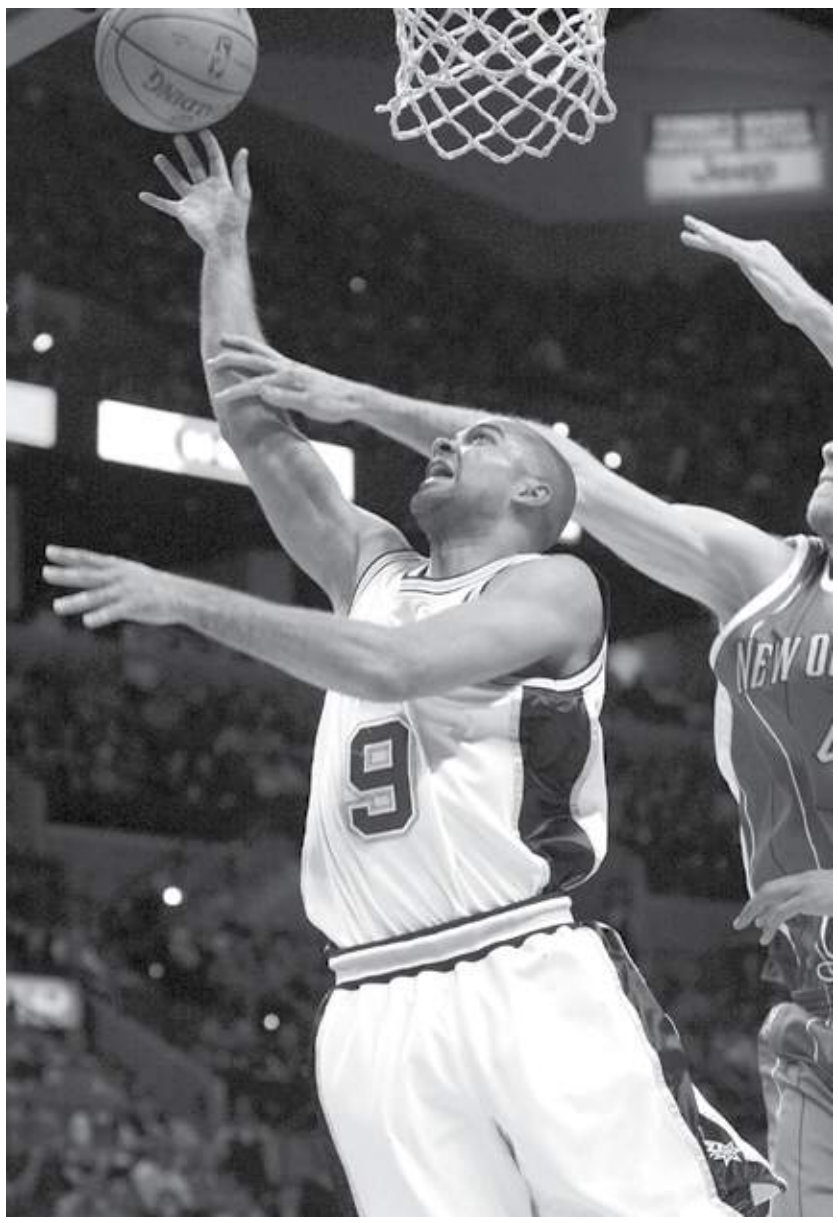
Tagliabue's day still has not arrived. Critics cited his inability to place a team back in Los Angeles after the Rams and Raiders left in 1995, and said the labor agreement he pushed through in 2006 was cast aside by the owners last year.

Spurs withstand Hornets to extend divisional lead

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tony Parker prevailed in a clash of NBA All-Star point guards, scoring 25 points and stretching San Antonio's divisional lead over Chris Paul and the New Orleans Hornets in Saturday's 106-93 win.

Paul, who scored 38, will start ahead of Parker for the Western Conference at the All-Star game in two weeks, and he had the kind of game that showed why.

But the Spurs pushed their lead over the Hornets in the Southwest Division to three games.



AP

San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker of France goes up to the basket against New Orleans Hornets' Sean Marks during the first quarter of NBA basketball in San Antonio, on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009.

Trailblazers 122, Jazz 108

In Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored 30 points to help defeat Utah and give Portland a fourth straight victory.

Roy, selected as a reserve for the Western Conference All-Star team on Thursday, shot 11-for-19 from the field while reaching 30 points for the seventh time this season.

Portland moved within 1-1/2 games of Northwest Division leader Denver.

Mavericks 111, Heat 96

In Miami, Dallas stretched its dominance over Miami to a ninth consecutive regular-season win, using radar-like shooting.

The Mavericks sank a season-best 60 percent of their shots, with Dirk Nowitzki leading the way, getting 30 points from 12-for-14 shooting.

Jason Terry scored 20 and Jason Kidd finished with 11 assists for Dallas, which hasn't lost to Miami in the regular season since early 2004.

The loss tarnished a night in which Dwyane Wade (30 points), Tim Hardaway and Alonzo Mourning were honored for winning Olympic gold.

Bucks 110, Hawks 107

In Milwaukee, the hosts made it four straight home victories over Atlanta.

Charlie Villanueva scored 27 points and Richard Jefferson and Ramon Sessions each had 20 for the Bucks.

Atlanta's Joe Johnson, picked as a reserve to the Eastern Conference All-Star team for the third consecutive season, passed the 10,000 point mark in his career.

Lakers 115, Grizzlies 98

In Memphis, Tennessee, Memphis crashed to its 12th straight loss, beaten comfortably by Los Angeles.

Kobe Bryant scored 25 points and had seven assists, while Pau Gasol had 24 points and eight rebounds for the Lakers, who won for the sixth time in the past seven games.

Los Angeles lost center Andrew Bynum due to a sprained right knee in the first quarter, and he will face further tests.

Bulls 122, Suns 111

In Phoenix, Chicago notched a third successive win, sinking Phoenix.

Ben Gordon and Derrick Rose each scored 26 points for the Bulls, who swept the season series from Phoenix for the first time since 1996-97.

Nets 85, 76ers 83

In Philadelphia, New Jersey capitalized on Philadelphia's fourth-quarter collapse to take a narrow win.

The Sixers led by 12 early in the fourth, then went the final 10 minutes without a basket. They missed their last 18 shots and finished the fourth quarter 2-for-22.

Brook Lopez had 24 points and 17 rebounds, and his dunk with 17 seconds left put the Nets ahead for good. Devin Harris scored 17.

Rockets 110, Warriors 93

In Houston, Yao Ming had 25 points and 11 rebounds to lead Houston over Golden State.

Ron Artest scored 27 as the Rockets made up for the absence of an injured Tracy McGrady.

The Warriors, who've lost nine of their last 10 road games, missed six of their first eight shots in the final quarter to blow their chances of getting back into the contest.

Knicks 122, Pacers 113

In Indianapolis, New York made it six wins from seven starts by defeating Indiana.

Al Harrington had 31 points and David Lee added 23 points and 17 rebounds for the Knicks, who moved within two games of matching last season's meager wins tally.

Indiana had its seven-game home winning streak snapped.

Wizards 106, Clippers 94

In Washington, the home team downed Los Angeles in a meeting of two struggling teams that lived down expectations.

Antawn Jamison had 25 points and 12 rebounds, Nick Young added 22 and rookie JaVale McGee tied his career high with 18 to give the Wizards victory against a Clippers team that has lost 18 of its past 20 games.

Los Angeles committed a season-high 25 turnovers—10 in the first quarter alone.

Kenny Perry rallies to lead FBR Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—After erasing a four-stroke deficit in five holes, Kenny Perry wanted to be alone atop the FBR Open leaderboard.

All it took was a 33-foot putt on the 18th hole Saturday. When the putt dropped into the cup, it brought a roar from the massive TPC Scottsdale gallery and gave Perry a one-stroke lead over Scott Piercy through three rounds.

"Good time to make one," said Perry, who shot a 5-under 66.

Despite stumbling down the stretch, Piercy thought he had a one-stroke lead when he reached the clubhouse.

"They've still got to catch me right now," Piercy said after his 66.

Perry already had.

Perry erased a four-stroke deficit between the 13th and 17th holes. He birdied the 17th to catch Piercy and birdied the 18th to surge past him.

"Supper's going to taste good tonight," Perry said. "Great day."

Kevin Na (66), Brian Gay (67) and Charley Hoffman (69) were tied for third, two strokes off the lead.

Perry's rally set up an intriguing Sunday duel between Perry, who turned pro in 1982, and Piercy, a rookie.

The 48-year-old Perry has 12 tour victories. The 30-year-old Piercy is playing in his 23rd PGA Tour event, and he's here on a sponsor exemption.

Na will join Perry and Piercy in the final group.

Perry's rally actually began Thursday, after he struggled through the first 14 holes.

"I was out of here," Perry said. "I'm 4 over with four to play on Thursday and just pretty much mad, basically, going into 15."

But Perry smashed a 3-wood from 275 yards out and birdied the par-5 15th, and he's been rolling ever since.

"You know what, it's amazing what one shot can do for you in a tournament," Perry said. "You can either go one way or another with one golf shot."

Counting the 15th, Perry has an eagle, 16 birdies and only two bogeys in the 40 holes since that shot.

Perry is playing with an added personal burden.

His father has had two stents put in his heart. His mother has blood cancer and is in an assisted-living facility. And his wife's mother fell at a fast-food restaurant, breaking her knee cap and two vertebrae.

"It's been a tough time, a tough go for us," Perry said this week. "We just need to figure out some way to get us through this winter, and hopefully they're going to come out of this deal."

Piercy burst onto the scene two years ago in Las Vegas, when he erased a three-stroke deficit in the last five holes to win $2 million in The Ultimate Game.

Piercy said that experience, and years of Monday qualifying, have steeled him for his first full season on the Tour.

"I think the thing I'll draw from is the fact that when the pressure is on, I know I can get it done," Piercy said. "When it's hot in the kitchen, I like to be there."

It got hotter for Piercy as the sunny, 74-degree afternoon wore on.

Piercy started the day in a tie for eighth at 6 under. He quickly vaulted to the top of the leaderboard with birdies on eight of the first 13 holes.

"The putter was rolling so well today," he said. "The hole looked like a five-gallon bucket."

Piercy's lead over Perry grew to four strokes after 13 holes. But that's when Piercy began to falter.

On the par-4, 477-yard 14th, he buried his second shot in thick grass beyond the green, then fluffed his chip shot and two-putted for bogey.

The 558-yard 15th had been the easiest hole this week. But Piercy drove into a lake on the left and took another bogey.

At some point, Perry glanced at a leaderboard and saw that Piercy had dropped to 11 under from 14 under.

"I was like, 'What happened?' " Perry said. "So either they put wrong numbers up or he had a couple of tough holes coming in."

Piercy missed a chance to make up a stroke on the fully enclosed 16th. Piercy hit his tee shot to five feet but missed the birdie putt and had to settle for par.

Piercy followed that with another bogey, on the par-4, 332-yard 17th - his third bogey in four holes.

Piercy parred No. 18, but by the time he reached the clubhouse, his lead over Perry had evaporated into the dry desert air.

Piercy said he didn't look at his slow finish as a missed opportunity.

"The bogeys, whatever," Piercy said. "I look at it as eight birdies; that was awesome."

Torre unapologetic about 'The Yankee Years'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Don't expect an apology, A-Rod. Joe Torre is standing by everything he says in his new book.

In his first interview since excerpts of "The Yankee Years" became public, Torre told Larry King on Friday night that he's shocked by the uproar it's caused. Torre said the book, due out Tuesday, is merely an honest account of his time managing the high-profile club.

"It was a great 12 years in New York," Torre told The Associated Press after leaving the CNN studio on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood.

"Sometimes you win four World Series the first five years, people think it's a piece of cake," Torre added. "I was just letting people know what goes into the decision-making, and I think I did that without violating any confidences."

Torre said some of what's been said about the book has been taken out of context.

"A little information comes out and you've got to deal with five pages or whatever it was in a 500-page book," he said. "I'm sort of used to it. You don't like people to get the wrong idea, and I certainly feel good about the way the book turned out."

The book takes some nasty swings at several of his former players and gives a candid account of Torre's acrimonious split with the team. Some of the most scathing comments involve Alex Rodriguez, who Torre accused of changing the clubhouse culture and of being too concerned about records.

"It changed the personality somewhat, but it doesn't mean you can't win," Torre told King.

According to the book, co-authored by Sports Illustrated's Tom Verducci, some of A-Rod's teammates referred to him as "A-Fraud." Torre said the two haven't spoken since Torre turned down the Yankees' one-year contract offer following the 2007 season.

"I've had best wishes through people, I've texted him on occasion, but I haven't talked to Alex since I left," said Torre, who now manages the Los Angeles Dodgers. "I don't think there's anything in this book that's going to make Alex angry."

Torre's comments about David Wells certainly struck a nerve, though.

"The difference between Kevin Brown and David Wells is that both make your life miserable," Torre says in the book, "but David Wells meant to."

The outspoken former pitcher said in a radio interview Thursday that Torre broke a "code" by discussing what happened in the clubhouse, and that "when you break the code, you're a punk."

So what does Torre think about the backlash?

"I have a feeling that Boomer hasn't read the book yet," Torre told the AP. "Hopefully after Boomer reads the book, he'll get a different perspective."

Freedom Air stuns CPA, Jets beat P&S

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Freedom Air nailed its biggest win so far of the season after stunning Commonwealth Ports Authority, 23-5, Thursday night in the 2008-2009 Budweiser Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

After all its players batted in the top of the second inning, Freedom Air erected a 10-1 lead on the way to its ninth victory against only one defeat.

The win thus created a major shake up in the team standings as Freedom Air (9-1) grabbed second place overall, while relegating CPA to third place with its 9-2 record.

Defending champion DCCA is still on top of the heap with a 12-0 win-loss slate.

First baseman Roy Celis, pitcher Roque Camacho, and shortstop Reno Celis added insult to injury by firing a homerun each.

Freedom Air made five more runs in the fourth against CPA's four.

Eight Freedom Air players then reached home plate again at the top of the fifth, while CPA never scored after that and the referees called the game over.

Roy Celis went 3-for-3, had three runs, one homerun, one double, three RBIs, and a walk. Roque Camacho was 2-for-4 and had four runs, one homerun, and two RBIs. Reno Celis hit twice in four at bat, had three runs, a homerun and four RBIs.

Al Lizama also finished with four RBIs after two hits in three at bat and had two runs and one base on ball.

Byron Kaipat was 2-for-2 for CPA, including two runs, one homerun, and two RBIs.

The other scorers for CPA were Mark Toves, Jack Guerrero, and Jack Diaz with one each.

Joeten 18, P&S 9

In the second game, upset-conscious Joeten Motor Jets rallied from an amazing 0-9 deficit to overturn P&S, 18-9.

The win improved the Jets' record to 8-3, as it jumped from sixth to fifth position.

P&S absorbed its fifth loss in 10 games.

The Jets went into a scoring spree at the top of the fourth inning, scoring 12 before adding three more in the sixth, and two in the seventh.

Infielder J.J. Laniyo hit the game's lone homerun in the sixth inning. He finished the game with four RBIs and two runs on 1-for-3 at bat.

Ernest Rangamar was 1-for-4 with three runs and an RBI, while Hector Efraim was 2-for-4 with two runs, one triple, and three RBIs.

Docomo 12, No Zone 6

In the opening game, Docomo defeated No Zone, 12-6, to score the night's first upset victory.

The win improved Docomo's record to 7-4 and it remained in eighth place, while No Zone joined the Jets in fifth with similar 8-3 marks.

SERENA

From Page 28

She started this year at No. 2 and slowly worked her way through the tournament. She was struggling with her serve at times and had to fend off Svetlana Kuznetsova in the quarterfinals when the Russian was serving for the match.

"I was playing lazy tennis in the beginning and I was doubting myself," she said. "I'll thank my mom for hanging in there this week. The first week was tough, but we got through it."

She lifted herself in the semis to snap Olympic champion Elena Dementieva's 15-match winning streak and was overpowering from the first game of the final, losing only eight points and winning 18 of the last 20 in the 22-minute first set.

Williams finished with 23 winners and just seven unforced errors, winning more than twice as many points as Safina.

In '07, when Williams was ranked No. 81, she beat six seeded players en route to the final, where she beat top-ranked Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-2.

In her two earlier runs to the Australian title, she'd had to save at least two match points in the semifinals. This was more straightforward.

"It was definitely one of my most dominant performances, especially considering it was a final," Williams said. "I was able to just lift the level of my game."

The first set was only the third 6-0 scoreline in the Australian Open final in 47 years. On the court after the match, Williams commended Safina for never giving up and being a good advertisement for women's tennis.

In a news conference later, she was asked if fans should be surprised or worried about a 6-0 set in a final.

"Uhm, hmm. I don't know ... You should never be surprised by anything that I do."

Williams win here gave her back-to-back majors for the first time since winning the Australian title in 2003 to complete her "Serena Slam" of four consecutive majors. The only other woman since then to win back-to-back majors was now-retired Justine Henin, who won the 2003 U.S. Open and 2004 Australian title.

Williams still remains far away from the women's record for Grand Slam singles titles. Margaret Court Smith had 24 and Steffi Graf 22.

But by making the singles and doubles finals, she already had become the all-time leading money winner in women's sports. And her $1.3 million for the singles title lifted her career earnings above $23.5 million.

She planned to spend a little of it in a double celebration with men's doubles champions Bob and Mike Bryan. She and sister Venus won the women's doubles final Friday—their eighth Grand Slam doubles title.

American twins Bob and Mike Bryan won their seventh Saturday, beating Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Mark Knowles of the Bahamas 2-6, 7-5, 6-0 to regain the No. 1 ranking.

"All I know is Serena usually picks up the bill," Mike Bryan said of the impending, co-celebrations.

Williams took less than one-fifth of the time to beat Safina than top-ranked Rafael Nadal needed to fend off fellow Spanish left-hander Fernando Verdasco to reach the men's final.

Nadal won 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (1), 6-4 in 5 hours, 14 minutes Friday, the longest match in the tournament's history, to reach Sunday's final against Roger Federer.

Federer, seeking to equal Pete Sampras' record 14 Grand Slam singles titles, beat American Andy Roddick in straight sets on Thursday.

On Sunday, they'll be meeting for the seventh time to decide a Grand Slam. Nadal, the four-time French Open champion, has a 4-2 edge highlighted by last year's epic five-set win at Wimbledon. He also ended Federer's 237-week stretch at No. 1 last August.

"This is where I won the Grand Slam to become No. 1 in the world, back in 2004," Federer said. "The stage is set for a great match. I hope we can live up to them.

"Hopefully, (I'll) equal Pete's record."

YUNOSUKE

From Page 28

to instruct them for directions.

"I am not familiar with the course so I just stayed with him (Fujio) almost throughout the race," explained Yunosuke, who is taking up his master's degree in physical education at a university in north eastern Tokyo.

The two partners broke away from the rest of the pack some three kilometers into the race. They were running side-by-side most of the uphill and downhill trails.

Thirty-year-old Fujio said Yunosuke started to pull away from him right after they passed Coffee Care.

"I wish to come back next year and I hope that more local people will join the race. They should enjoy this kinds of races," said the 31-year-old Yunosuke, winner of several marathon events at home.

Fujio and most of the participants this year said the course this time was better compared to the previous year.

A total of 57 runners participated, including 39 in the long course and 18 in the short course.

Hayden Scott was the first runner to cross the finish line in the six-mile short course with a time of 1:06:23.

"It's a beautiful course. We passed by several bamboo shoots. But it was a beautiful place to run and I thank Chuck for cutting some of the bushes along the trail," said the 28-year-old Hayden.

Hayden engaged 56-year-old Chang Whan Jang in a down-to-the-wire dash to the finish line.

Jang, a junior high school teacher at Hopwood Junior High School, came in second barely three seconds later with his 1:06:26.

"We had a lot of fun. We enjoyed chatting along the trail," said Jang, who finished in the Top 15 for the long course last year.

In the women's side of the short course, Ericka Frink was not aware that she was the first to arrive with her 1:26:34.

The special education teacher at the Public School System said it was a beautiful trail and she had a great run and could have competed in the long course.

Kathleen Herman, who works at the Division of Environmental Health, echoed the same observation on the beautiful course. She finished second with her 1:29:48.

Two women participants from Guam lost their way and were the last participants to arrive: Tara Taitano (2:41:27) and Lou Klitzkie (2:42:44).

Some of the participants brought with them their pet dogs.

One of them was Mamiko Berger, who finished 30th overall in the long course.

"I am still okay but my dog is already tired," she said with a thousand meters away from the finish line.

A Japanese runner in the long course came in with a time of 1:37:20 but was disqualified due to taking the wrong route. Another Japanese runner who did not submit his time was Chida Mitsutoshi.

RUNNIN'

From Page 28

16-point advantage, entering the final canto.

The Diamond Auto Fixers were held to only four points in the first seven minutes of the third period, as they either lost the ball several times on fastbreak plays or missed badly from outside.

At the end of a lackluster third quarter, only Junar Guiab made more than one field goal for the Fixers, who tried to recover in the fourth quarter, but failed to keep pace with the streaking Runnin' Rebels.

Behind by 16 entering the payoff period, Brendo Talania nailed a triple and a 15-footer to spark a short 7-2 run and move Diamond within 11 points, 51-62, with less than seven minutes left in the game.

But that was the closest that the Fixers could get, as they went back to their struggling mode fumbling the ball and missing outside shots.

Iguel halted the Fixers' rally with a triple increasing the Runnin' Rebels lead to 14, 65-51. He added 10 more points in the fourth quarter leading the Runnin' Rebels breakaway in the final six minutes of the match.

The Runnin' Rebels had a 28-9 windup in the remaining six minutes of the game to cruise to a 30-point win.

Iguel finished with 31 points and drew double figures contributions from four teammates. Tumaquip chipped in 14 after firing three triples, Teregeyo added 12, while Coldeen and Jerome Norita had 11 and 10, respectively.

Talania top-scored for the Fixers with 14 points, while Errol Peredo and Guiab nailed 10 apiece.

Runnin' Rebels 90 – Iguel 31, Tumaquip 14, Teregeyo 12, Coldeen 11, Norita 10, Lisua 7, L. Rangamar 3.

Diamond 60 – Talania 14, Peredo 10, Guiab 10, Camacho 8, Esdrelon 5, Capalad 4, Marasigan 3, Fernandez 2, Apelo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-11, 31-29, 60-44, 90-60.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	9	.813	_
Philadelphia	23	23	.500	15
New York	21	25	.457	17
New Jersey	21	27	.438	18
Toronto	19	29	.396	20

Southeast Division

Orlando	35	10	.778	_
Atlanta	27	20	.574	9
Miami	25	21	.543	10 1 / 2
Charlotte	19	28	.404	17
Washington	10	37	.213	26

Central Division

Cleveland	36	9	.800	_
Detroit	25	20	.556	11
Milwaukee	24	27	.471	15
Chicago	21	27	.438	16 1 / 2
Indiana	19	29	.396	18 1 / 2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	32	14	.696	_
New Orleans	28	16	.636	3
Houston	29	19	.604	4
Dallas	27	19	.587	5
Memphis	11	35	.239	21

Northwest Division

Denver	31	16	.660	_
Portland	29	17	.630	1 1 / 2
Utah	26	22	.542	5 1 / 2
Minnesota	16	29	.356	14
Oklahoma City	11	36	.234	20

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	37	9	.804	_
Phoenix	25	20	.556	11 1 / 2
Golden State	15	33	.313	23
L.A. Clippers	10	37	.213	27 1 / 2
Sacramento	10	38	.208	28

Yesterday's Games
New York 122, Indiana 113
New Jersey 85, Philadelphia 83
Dallas 111, Miami 96
L.A. Lakers 115, Memphis 98
Washington 106, L.A. Clippers 94
Milwaukee 110, Atlanta 107
Houston 110, Golden State 93
San Antonio 106, New Orleans 93
Chicago 122, Phoenix 111
Portland 122, Utah 108

FBR OPEN SCORES

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)—Scores Saturday from the FBR Open, a $2.5 million US PGA Tour event at 7,216-yard par-71 TPC Scottsdale:

Third Round

Kenny Perry	72-63-66	201
Scott Piercy	69-67-66	202
Kevin Na	67-70-66	203
Brian Gay	68-68-67	203
Charley Hoffman	66-68-69	203
Geoff Ogilvy	70-69-65	204
Ted Purdy	71-68-65	204
Jeff Maggert	70-68-66	204
David Toms	69-68-67	204
Ryan Moore	69-67-68	204
James Nitties	65-69-70	204
Matt Kuchar	67-67-70	204
Rocco Mediate	68-70-67	205
Cliff Kresge	68-69-68	205
Zach Johnson	71-66-68	205
Nick Watney	70-63-72	205
Michael Letzig	70-67-69	206
Rory Sabbatini	72-65-69	206
Brendon de Jonge	71-67-69	207
Bubba Watson	68-70-69	207
Sean O'Hair	69-69-69	207
Troy Matteson	70-68-69	207
Carl Pettersson	71-68-69	208
Ryan Palmer	73-67-68	208
J.J. Henry	69-71-68	208
Parker McLachlin	68-71-69	208
Kevin Sutherland	68-71-69	208
Jonathan Kaye	68-71-69	208
Jonathan Byrd	72-69-67	208
Gary Woodland	70-71-67	208
Scott McCarron	70-72-66	208
Aaron Baddeley	69-73-66	208
Hunter Mahan	73-67-69	209
Jarrod Lyle	71-69-69	209
Luke Donald	76-65-68	209
Steve Flesch	69-72-68	209
David Berganio, Jr.	66-71-72	209
Nathan Green	73-69-67	209
John Senden	68-70-72	210
Steve Elkington	70-69-71	210
Kirk Triplett	70-70-70	210
Rod Pampling	72-69-69	210
Woody Austin	69-72-69	210
Brandt Jobe	72-69-69	210
Jeff Overton	70-72-68	210
Cameron Beckman	68-67-75	210
Rickie Fowler	73-66-72	211
Vaughn Taylor	69-69-73	211
Fredrik Jacobson	72-65-74	211
D.J. Trahan	68-74-69	211
Bob Tway	71-71-69	211
Kevin Streelman	73-69-69	211
Chad Campbell	70-70-72	212
Jeff Klauk	74-66-72	212
Charlie Wi	73-68-71	212
Lucas Glover	65-72-75	212
Webb Simpson	68-67-77	212
Chris DiMarco	73-69-70	212
Pat Perez	69-73-70	212
John Merrick	72-70-70	212
Dudley Hart	71-71-70	212
Brad Adamonis	68-70-75	213
Briny Baird	67-74-72	213
Mark Wilson	70-72-71	213
Joe Ogilvie	71-70-73	214
Brett Quigley	69-71-75	215
John Rollins	71-71-74	216
Ben Curtis	71-71-74	216
Jason Bohn	71-71-74	216
Nicholas Thompson	72-68-77	217
Dean Wilson	69-73-76	218

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

DCCA	12	0
Freedom Air	9	1
CPA	9	2
No Zone	8	3
Joeten Motors	8	3
Legislature	8	4
Beach Boys	7	3
Docomo	7	4
DLNR	6	5
P & S	5	5
POI	5	5
DEQ/CRM	5	5
CUC	3	7
Law & Order	3	8
CHC	3	8
PSS	4	8
PIC	2	7
Customs	2	8
Mayors	2	10
Hopwood	0	11

Women's Division

NMC	8	1
DCCA	4	4
Finance	3	4
CUC	3	4
CHC	1	6

NAVY HILL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Dollar Days	5	0
RBC Rollers	4	0
Docomo	4	1
MBI	3	2
Athlete's Foot	2	2
Uncle Ben	2	1
Inscape	2	3
MIGS	1	2
IT& E	1	3
670 Rollers	0	2
San Antonio Shooters	0	4
Mobil	0	4

The Week in Sports

MMA, Korean pro teams get spotlight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The week's spotlight was on the octagon cage at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, as Guam and Saipan fighters slugged it out anew during the Rites of Passage VI: Conviction.

In the end, the visitors survived the home bets with all six Guam fighters winning their respective matches.

Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu posted the biggest win among the Guam fighters scoring a technical knockout victory over Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley in the main event.

Urquizu of Fight To Win downed Charley with a solid right hook to the chin.

The five other Guam fighters who went home victorious were Hosea Ware, Ray Apiag, Peter Alvarez, Robert Basa, and Tony "The Wreck" Reyes.

Besides the Guam fighters, Saipan also hosted two visiting baseball teams from Korea last week.

First to arrive were the LG Twins, who will be conducting a month-long spring training at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Twins boast of two Olympians who helped Korea win the baseball competition in last year's Beijing Olympics. They are former Atlanta Braves pitcher Joong Keun Bong and outfielder Lee Jin Young.

Over at the Kan Pacific Ballfield, the Lotte Giants are also holding their spring training.

The Giants also have Olympians on their lineup in Korean Baseball Organization homerun king Lee Dae Ho, catcher Kang Min Ho, and pitcher Song Sung Joon.

Raphael Zapanta continued to tame the lanes at the Saipan Bowling Center, as the youth bowler won the Bing Prince of the Lanes title for January.

Zapanta won nine of the 12 monthly titles last season and it seemed he is not done yet after claiming the first tournament of Saipan Bowling Association for 2009.

Other January titlists were Percy Omechalang and Yho Villavicencio, who notched the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes crowns.

The new season continued to bring good signs for CNMI junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo, who qualified to the main draw of a tournament in New Zealand.

Heo defeated Chester Espie in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1, to advance to the main draw of the 2009 Canterbury Championships in Wilding Park, Canterbury.

Heo will stay in New Zealand for two more weeks to play in two more tournaments.

More good news surfaced last week with CNMI likely to keep the hosting rights for the Oceania Basketball Tournament after FIBA Oceania received an assurance that the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will be repaired in time in for the June event.

The Ada Gym and the Marianas High School Gymnasium will be hosting games and practice sessions for the Oceania caging, but only the latter made the grade when FIBA Oceania inspected the facilities in October last year.

"FIBA Oceania has held extensive discussion with BANMI president Elias Rangamar and received assurances that the necessary support has been received from government departments to effect the repairs to the gym, as requested by FIBA Oceania," FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

While Saipan waits for seven other teams that will be participating in the Oceania caging, various local basketball squads are busy in their respective leagues.

In the MISO caging, Kagman High School swept Southern in the boys and girls varsity divisions, while Saipan Community School scored its first win at home after beating Seventh Day Adventist in the girls game in the middle school division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Athletic Association Basketball League.

In the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League, Dollar Days won the battle of unbeaten teams topping Docomo, 120-94, while action in the 2009 BANMI-Budweiser Basketball League resumed with the Runnin' Rebels defeating the Diamond Auto Fixers, 90-60.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.
Referee Jason Tarkong, center, raises the hand of winning fighter Hosea Ware, who prevailed over Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo in the semi main event of the Rites of Passage VI: Conviction held last Jan. 24 at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.
Referee Jason Tarkong stops the fight between Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu and Maitai "The Charger" Charley in the main event.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dollar Days' Jeff Galvez, right, dribbles against Docomo's Robert Sanciangco during their game in the Navy Hill caging Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
A Saipan Community School dribbles past a Seventh Day Adventist defender during their game in the private school caging Thursday at SCS court in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
January Bring Prince of the Lanes winner Raphael Zapanta is flanked by third placer Marion McKenzie, left, and runner-up Leeanne Yarobwemal.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Former Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Joong Keun Bong poses during a break at the LG Twins' training camp at the Oleai Sports Complex.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.
The Lotte Giants prepare for a drill on the mound at the Kan Pacific Ballfield in Marpi.

Dynasty vs. doormat in the Super Bowl

The Pittsburgh Steelers have signified success in the Super Bowl era with their stable ownership, brilliant coaching and throwback style. A victory Sunday will give them a record sixth Super Bowl title, and they are 6 1/2-point favorites to get it against the Arizona Cardinals. **24**

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Sports

MMA, Korean pro teams get spotlight

The week's spotlight was on the octagon cage at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, as Guam and Saipan fighters slugged it out anew during the Rites of Passage VI: Conviction. **27**

Serena's 10th Slam moves her back to No. 1

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Serena Williams always selects a special outfit to bring to Australia for a victory celebration. Every second year, she gets to wear it.

Williams' 6-0, 6-3 rout of Dinara Safina on Saturday earned her a 10th Grand Slam title, a fourth Australian title—coming each odd-numbered year since 2003—and the No. 1-ranking.

"I actually forgot until the end when I was saying hi to my box. They're like, 'Hey, you're No. 1.' I was like, 'Oh, yeah,'" she said.

Not that a number means everything.

"I always believe I'm the best, whether I'm No. 1 or 100," she said. "Just having that extra bonus is pretty cool."

Williams set aside a stylish black top to wear for the big occasion this time. In between the match, doping tests and media commitments, she changed into it.

"I always bring an outfit for the championships," she said. "I always try to think positive, and I think it helps me be able to win."

Williams was so dominant that Safina, a 22-year-old Russian playing in her second major final, didn't feel worthy of being on the same court.

"It was first time for me to play not only for the Grand Slam, but also for No. 1 spot," said Safina, the 2008 French Open runner-up. "I never been through this situation, and she was already.

"Serena was too good ... I was just a ballboy on the court today," added Safina, apologizing to the Rod Laver Arena crowd after the 59-minute match.

After Melbourne's hottest three-day heat wave on record, conditions were a relatively mild 79 degrees for the tournament's first women's final at night.

Safina had been hoping to emulate two feats her brother, Marat Safin, achieved. He won the 2005 Australian Open—the day after Serena won her second title here—and held the No. 1 ranking.

"She played exactly the way she had to play and she was much more aggressive and she just was taking time out of me," Safina said.

"She didn't give me a chance."

Williams' win at the U.S. Open in September gave her the No. 1 ranking for the following four weeks, her first stint at the top since a 57-week stretch from July 2002.

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AP

Serena Williams of the U.S., holds the trophy during the awarding ceremony after beating Russia's Dinara Safina in the Women's singles final match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009.

Runnin' Rebels dash to easy victory over Fixers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Runnin' Rebels stepped on the gas pedal in the second half en route to a 90-60 demolition of the Diamond Fixers in the resumption of the 2009 BANMI-Budweiser Basketball League Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After a neck-and-neck battle in the first half, which ended with the Runnin' Rebels ahead by only a deuce, 31-29, the Sonny Flores-coach squad raced to a 60-44 advantage, going into the fourth quarter.

The younger and faster crew of Flores pushed the tempo of the game in the second half making several fastbreak layups. The Runnin' Rebels also outgunned the Fixers in the second half with Jesus Iguel and Jose Tumaquip alternately hitting long jumpers.

Iguel, who canned only three field goals in the first half, began burning the hoops in the third period with his daredevil drives and pull up jumpers. He drilled the Runnin' Rebels first four points in the second half on two long jumpers and added two more baskets, while teammates Tumaquip, Bob Coldeen Jr., Leroy Rangamar, and Syl Teregeyo buried one triple apiece giving their team a

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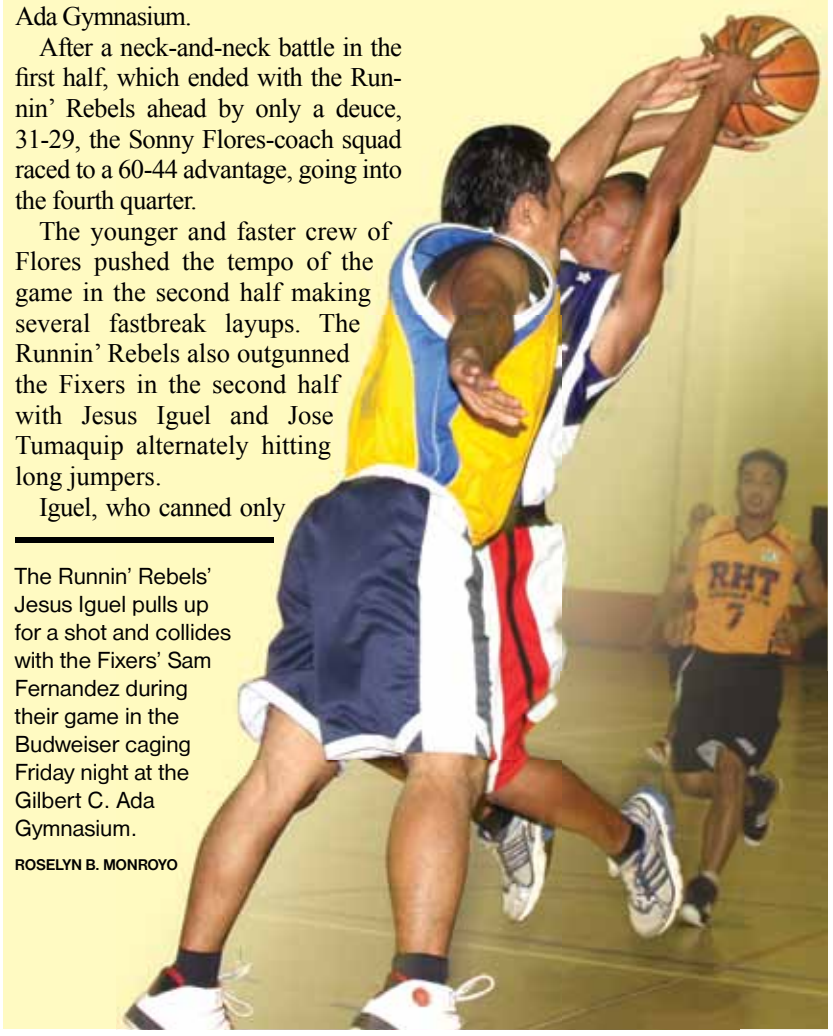

The Runnin' Rebels' Jesus Iguel pulls up for a shot and collides with the Fixers' Sam Fernandez during their game in the Budweiser caging Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

This year's Coffee Trail Run winner Handa Yunosuke leads 2008 champion Miyachi Fujio (2008 champion) as the two descended from Mt. Tapochao Saturday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Yunosuke wins 2009 Coffee Trail Run

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Japanese running coach Handa Yunosuke used his vast experience to win Saturday's 2nd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run from Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park to Mt. Tapochao via Capital Hill Road and back.

The course was approximately 18.5-kilometers long, crisscrossing two coffee plantations before it headed up to Mt. Tapochao and down into Chuck Jordon's coffee plantation, along past XTERRA Saipan Championship trails.

Yunosuke clocked in at one hour, 21 minutes, 12 seconds to beat last year's champion Miyachi Fujio, who came in several seconds later at 1:22:46.

"This is a good place. It was a nice run. I enjoyed it very much," Yunosuke said of his first-time visit on Saipan.

Sometime last year, Yunosuke met Fujio in a French restaurant called Café De Cite in Tokyo where the latter works as a cook and waiter.

Fujio, who won last year's inaugural event by clocking in at 1:23:31, encouraged Yunosuke to join him when he comes back to defend his title.

So on Saturday, Jan. 31, Miyachi and Yunosuke along with 18 other Japanese friends took part in the second edition of the annual event organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The group included long course new women champion Kurara Tanaka, who crossed the finish line in 1:42:56.

XTERRA Saipan veteran Mieko Carey settled for second place with 1:49:24.

"I had a good run," was all she said.

She reported that some of the competitors were lost along the way and she had

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